

The Middlebury Campus

NOVEMBER 29, 2012 | VOL. 111 NO. 10 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

RUSSIANS DRINK VODKA?



JESSICA MUNYON

A number of groups of students performed in the annual International Student Organization (ISO) Cultural Runway show on Saturday, Nov. 17 in the McCullough Social Space. In the scene above, students satirically demonstrated many common Russian stereotypes based on their experiences abroad.

College revamps orientation trips

By Isabelle Dietz

After many adaptations to first-year orientation trips ranging from MOO to OINK, the College has arrived at a new, expanded program titled MidView. The name is recycled from the original version of MidView, temporarily shelved because of the recession after its first year in 2008.

The main difference between OINK, which has been the College's orientation program for the last four years, and MidView is that MidView will be a mandatory part of first-year orientation that comes with no additional fees. This financial privilege comes from joint funding provided by the College and the SGA.

"The 2013 program will look much like MidView in 2008," said Derek Doucet, director of outdoor programs and club sports. "It will differ in scale, and in the scope and breadth of trip offerings. The most important distinction is that it will be intentionally integrated in the College's overall orientation efforts."

Instead of happening separate from orientation like OINK, with students leaving on trips the weekend after classes begin, next year MidView will happen at the end of orientation week. Themes and discussions introduced at the beginning of orientation will continue through the MidView trips.

"The primary goal is to help first-years in the transition from home to Middlebury," said Doucet. "They carry with them all kinds of hopes, dreams and anxieties, and the trips program will provide a peer group they can lean on in what can be a very

challenging time.

"It will also provide an invaluable opportunity for them to connect them with older student leaders," he added. "Finally, the trips introduce first years to the new academic, cultural and physical landscapes that will become their home for their time here."

Along with the program's expansion and required participation come a variety of trips, the hope being that this will let every first-year find a trip of interest. Three categories of trips will be offered next year. Wilderness exploration trips will be similar to the outdoor trips currently offered by OINK and will include activities such as backpacking and canoeing. Vermont exploration trips will explore the cultural aspects of Vermont as opposed to the physical; they might entail looking at organic farming or contemplative practices in Vermont. The third category for trips will be community engagement trips, which will be service oriented. OINK offered five such trips this year, and the new program hopes to more than double that number next fall.

"It gives new students a chance to realize problems that they might not otherwise hear about in Vermont, such as hunger and homelessness," said Community Engagement Coordinator Ashley Calkins '06. "This way they can experience what communities need, with the hope that they will choose to stay involved in civic engagement throughout their Middlebury career. They also will be able to meet other students who are interested in community service."

SEE MIDDVIEW, PAGE 2

Gaza violence incites discussion

By Isabelle Stillman

J Street U Midd held a student-led discussion on the recent Gaza-Israel violence on Monday, Nov. 19. J Street U Midd is the Middlebury chapter of J Street U, a student organization for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans.

Sam Kaufman '13, president of J Street U Midd, moderated the discussion for approximately 20 students and one professor.

Part of Kaufman's reasoning for holding the discussion was concern that many students have been informed about the recent violence through Facebook posts. Several students present also expressed concern regarding students' reliance on biased news sources.

"This is a really loaded topic for so many people," said Harry Zieve-Cohen '15, who participated in the discussion. "You have to know

what's going on and what's happened in the past to comment on it intelligently."

Zieve-Cohen also believed the conversation needed to be opened up based on what he perceives to be a prevalent anti-Israel sentiment on campus.

"I think there are students on this campus, specifically Jewish students, but not exclusively, that feel uncomfortable with the rhetoric that they hear," he said. "I think that's why the tension and anger are coming out in this conversation."

Kaufman opened the discussion with all participants introducing themselves and describing in one word how the recent Gaza conflict made them feel. "Scared," "sad," "helpless," "disturbed" and "not surprised" were common sentiments voiced in the room, setting the tone for a serious and emotional conversation.

sation.

The single professor in attendance, Instructor in Arabic Ahmad Almallah, then opened up about his views on the controversy. Almallah identifies as Palestinian and currently has family members living in the contested region. He expressed severe frustration with the American perspective on the conflict, and said that the media neglects to acknowledge Palestinian lives, and added that the general language surrounding the violence greatly disturbs him.

Almallah left the discussion soon after his statement.

Amid some tension in the room, Kaufman attempted to put boundaries on conversational etiquette to encourage respect.

"The point of this conversation is to open up conversation," Kaufman

SEE J STREET, PAGE 4

Students protest Shell spokesman

By Bronwyn Oatley

Amidst a growing conversation about ethical investing at the College, several students demonstrated at a talk given by Olav Ljosne, senior manager for international operations for Shell Oil, at an event co-sponsored by the Vermont Council on World Affairs (VCWA) and the Rohatyn Center of Global Affairs on Thursday, Nov. 15.

The talk was the second in a local series co-sponsored by the VCWA, which brings hundreds of international speakers to the green mountain state every year.

The first of the two events was a panel discussion held on Wednesday Nov. 14 at the University of Vermont. While the event was well attended, a

group of protestors repeatedly interrupted the speakers, forcing the organizers to cancel the panel shortly after it began.

The group of nine who protested at Wednesday's talk, reportedly affiliated with the Rising Tide Vermont (a Burlington-based activist group), read letters which had allegedly been written by Nigerians who have been affected by Shell's operations in the Niger Delta, according to the *Burlington Free Press*.

At the College, Ljosne was permitted to speak unimpeded for approximately 30 minutes, but had his remarks bookended by the protests of several students.

Dr. Gail Stevenson, executive

SEE STUDENT, PAGE 3

COLLEGE WEIGHS IN ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION



LAUREN DAVISON

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, the College hosted a panel on affirmative action in the McCullough Social Space. The event was planned in light of the recent court case *Fisher v. University of Texas*, which is now before the Supreme Court and may have serious ramifications for all affirmative action programs.

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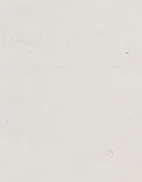
LOCAL COALITION HELPS MIGRANT FARM WORKERS
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WEST BANK & GAZA
Under Israeli Occupation Since 1967
1949 Armistice (Green Line)
Palestinian Authority
Israeli control
West Bank
Gaza
Israeli Settlement



CCSRE SCREENING INSPIRES ISRAEL / PALESTINE DISCUSSION
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AS YOU LIKE IT LIGHTS UP WRIGHT THEATER
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BEYOND THE BUBBLE

BY DANNY ZHANG

Over the past three years, the world has become familiar with the financial woes of the European Union. Countries previously associated with vacation paradise, such as Greece, Spain and Italy, have seen their borrowing costs soar and even faced the possibility of default.

In exchange for emergency bailouts to keep the government afloat, these countries have imposed severe austerity measures on their citizens. These austerity measures have been wildly unpopular and so far resulted in little economic success.

In Spain's case, the national government is facing one additional challenge: keeping the country together.

In the northeastern parts of the country, the long-simmering nationalist sentiments of Catalonians have moved to the forefront of their political dialogue. This past Sunday, Catalonia held regional elections widely seen as a litmus test for the viability of future secession.

With 50 percent of the ballots counted by Sunday night, incumbent Regional President Artur Mas's party won a plurality, leading in 48 out of 135 parliamentary districts. Combined with three other parties advocating Catalan independence, the separatist faction is poised to control approximately 84 seats in total.

These preliminary results showed a slightly weaker performance for the separatists than what many say is needed for a serious secessionist movement. President Mas's party will almost certainly fall short of a parliamentary majority and the separatist bloc will likely not attain a two-thirds supermajority.

These regional elections came almost two years before originally scheduled. President Mas called them in response to massive separatist demonstrations. On Sept. 11, a crowd of more than 1.5 million Catalonians swelled the streets of Barcelona, Spain's second largest city, demanding secession from Spain.

These secessionist sentiments are hardly new as Catalonia uses its own language and sees its culture as unique from that of the rest of Spain. However, the separatist movement has been exacerbated by what many Catalonians see as a losing marriage with Spain.

The region generates tremendous wealth for Spain, with its car factories, banks and tourism. Catalonians, especially in the middle of the Eurozone crisis, think that they are reaping fewer benefits from the national government than the contributions they make in taxes. Many believe that the region would be better off financially on its own.

Regional President Mas is a recent convert in the secessionist movement. Prior to the separatist fever that struck in September, Mas was in favor of gaining more regional autonomy via negotiations. However, during the course of this campaign, he has promised to hold a referendum on independence within this upcoming parliamentary term.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has said that the national government will not allow an independence referendum in Catalonia. In 2008, the Spanish national government successfully appealed to the constitutional court to cancel a non-binding referendum on independence in Basque country, another northeast Spanish region with a long history of secessionist agitation.

The national government is backed by the 1978 Spanish Constitution, which states: "The Constitution is based on the indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation, the common and indivisible homeland of all Spaniards."

Even if Catalonia falls short of secession, these regional elections are another sign of the difficult task Prime Minister Rajoy faces in maintaining domestic stability. The youth unemployment rate continues to linger around 54 percent, while the European Central Commission predicts the Spanish economy to contract 1.4 percent per year in both 2012 and 2013. A general strike in protest of budget cuts all but shut down the country on Nov. 14, the second such event this year.

College suspends Mexico school

By Kelsey Collins

On Nov. 6, the College announced its decision to suspend its school abroad in Xalapa, Mexico. The program, which was based at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, will not accept students from next semester onward, unless the decision to suspend the school is reversed. The suspension of the Mexico program eliminates the only Spanish language C.V. Starr School Abroad Latin American location in the Northern Hemisphere.

Acting Dean of International Programs Paul Monod cited low enrollment as the primary reason for closing the program. Only one student opted to study abroad in Mexico this academic year, and the program has seen an average of only 2.7 students per semester over the past eight semesters. For comparison, the Middlebury C.V. Starr School in Argentina sees an average of 18.375 students per semester and the school in Chile has an average of 15.5 students per semester. The College has decided that the few students who choose to study in Mexico are not enough to sustain the costs of the program.

Monod suggested that reports of drug-related violence in the region might have contributed to the program's unpopularity.

"It's unfortunate to have to close any site abroad, but Mexico was a special case," said Monod. "Reports of drug violence in that country have saturated the media in the United States, which seems to have discouraged students from applying for the program. There was no sign that this situation was going to change; in fact, it appears to have worsened in the last year or so."

The Middlebury School Abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico was closed last year after reports of violence prompted the U.S. government to issue a travel warning, but the Xalapa program remained open as it was deemed safer.

Alan Sanders '13.5, the only current student who studied abroad in Xalapa last spring, said that there was not significant violence in the area.

"There were police patrols, and that was the extent of the violence that I saw," Sanders noted. "There were a couple of shoot-

ings while I was there but they were very much in isolated areas of the city that the school was not anywhere close to."

While Spanish language students still have plenty of options in considering studying abroad locations — the College has programs in Spain, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay — there are certain drawbacks to eliminating the Mexico location. Mexico was the only Spanish-speaking Latin American country available to students at the College who wished to study abroad in the Northern Hemisphere. Universities in the Southern Hemisphere follow a different academic calendar, with the fall semester beginning at the beginning of August and the spring semester ending in the middle of July.

For students at the College who have summer obligations and jobs back in the states, this calendar rules out locations like Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. Students in the international and global studies or international politics and economics majors, who are encouraged to focus on a specific region and are required to study abroad, now must travel to the Southern Hemisphere and adhere to that calendar if they choose to focus in Latin American studies.

Students studying Spanish and Latin

American cultures still have many options available to them, and the Office of International Programs maintains that there was nothing unique about the curriculum offered at Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa.

As an international and global studies major with a focus in anthropology, Sanders disagreed.

"The archeology program is really good, because they're right in the middle of where the Olmec civilization used to be," said Sanders. "So there's a lot of archeological dig sites around the city and it's a very culturally rich part of the world. So they have a lot of opportunities for anthropologists."

Sanders expressed his disappointment upon hearing the news of the program's suspension.

"I think that Mexico has such a vibrant culture that is misrepresented in the media in the United States," Sanders added. "We share a 2,000 mile border and it's so important to our politics, I think it's really important that Middlebury students get past the rhetoric that is involved in political discussions around Mexico, and that's really only accessible through living there."



MiddView alters orientation timing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The program organizers hope that these service trips will increase student involvement in community projects and student community organizations and allow first-years to connect their participation in high school service organizations to such organizations at the College.

"I graduated in 2006, and I still remember the people I went on my orientation trip with and those core relationships I made before classes even started," said Calkins.

Next year students will leave Friday morning of their orientation week and spend the following three days and two nights with their MiddView group. The program coordinators are looking for

between 100 and 120 volunteer student leaders for these expanded trips.

Posters will go up to recruit students

"I still remember the people I went on my orientation trip with and those core relationships I made before classes even started."

ASHLEY CALKINS '06
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

and the link for the student application, due Jan. 30, will be go/lead.

"We are looking to help [first-years]

become contributing members of the campus community, to launch their college experience in a meaningful way and to help broaden their sense of community to the areas surrounding Middlebury" said Shannon Gair '13, an orientation intern working on MiddView.

The coordinators are looking for leaders who are enthusiastic about the trips and who will be able to facilitate discussions between first-years and help them to find a place at the College.

Many students seem optimistic about moving the orientation programs so they are a part of orientation week.

"I really liked my OINK trip, but I would have preferred to have had it during orientation" said Gair.

This is a common theme among those who experienced meaningful OINK trips that came after their first week of classes. Upperclassmen who volunteered with the Mountain Club to go on these trips had to give up their first weekend back at the College to participate.

"I wanted to go on an OINK trip, but I didn't sign up in time. I would have preferred if they were during orientation and everyone participated" said Amy Pickens '15.

"The OINK program as a whole was probably the best part of my orientation experience," said Emily Sarich '16. "If I could change anything about the experience, I would definitely agree that it should be part of orientation. I know a lot of people had to miss out on the trip because they had too much work to do the first week of classes. OINK was still a fantastic experience for me and I would love to see next year's [first-years] enjoy it just as much as I did."



FILE PHOTO

Students enjoyed the rolling mountains of Vermont on a MiddView trip in 2008.

Student protests garner mixed responses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

director of VCWA, initially introduced Ljosne, noting the speaker's 20-year career with Shell and diplomatic service with the Norwegian Embassy in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Shortly thereafter, two students — Anna Shireman-Grabowski '15 and Jay Saper '13 — approached the podium and presented the Shell executive with a fake honorary degree "of Humane Letters" from the College.

The two students satirically praised Ljosne for "greenwashing" Shell's corporate activities in a manner "consistent with the practices of Middlebury College." In their comments they voiced a critique on the College's own "greenwashing" activities, referencing specifically the College's management of its \$881 million endowment.

"The global community has seen how effective you have been in justifying human rights violations such as using deadly force to repress a growing movement in protest of Shell," they said, referring to the oft-criticized record of the Dutch petroleum company in the Niger Delta.

"Middlebury has recently been accused of investing unethically — in companies like Shell — so we look to you now, more than ever, as we try to restore our reputation without actually changing our practices," they said.

The two students were dressed in graduation gowns and made their remarks as "Pomp and Circumstance March" played in the background, having been switched on by another student at the side of the room.

Director of Rohatyn Center of Global Affairs, Tamar Mayer permitted the students to finish, before re-inviting Ljosne to the microphone.

"Thank you for welcoming me here, it's been a very good day, a very interesting day," Ljosne said.

"I also must say thank you for a very special welcome," he said, referencing the two students who had taken their seats, "but I must say that the premise is something that I don't accept."

During his presentation, Ljosne spoke of Shell's positions on transparency, sustainable development and the "nexus between water, food and energy."

"We need to reduce the CO₂ emissions," he said, "At the same time ... we need to cover demand globally."

AUDIENCE MEMBERS PUSH FOR ANSWERS

In the question and answer session, students and faculty asked Ljosne pointed questions, referencing Shell's human rights record, current Supreme Court case and corporate responsibility, before demonstrations occurred again.

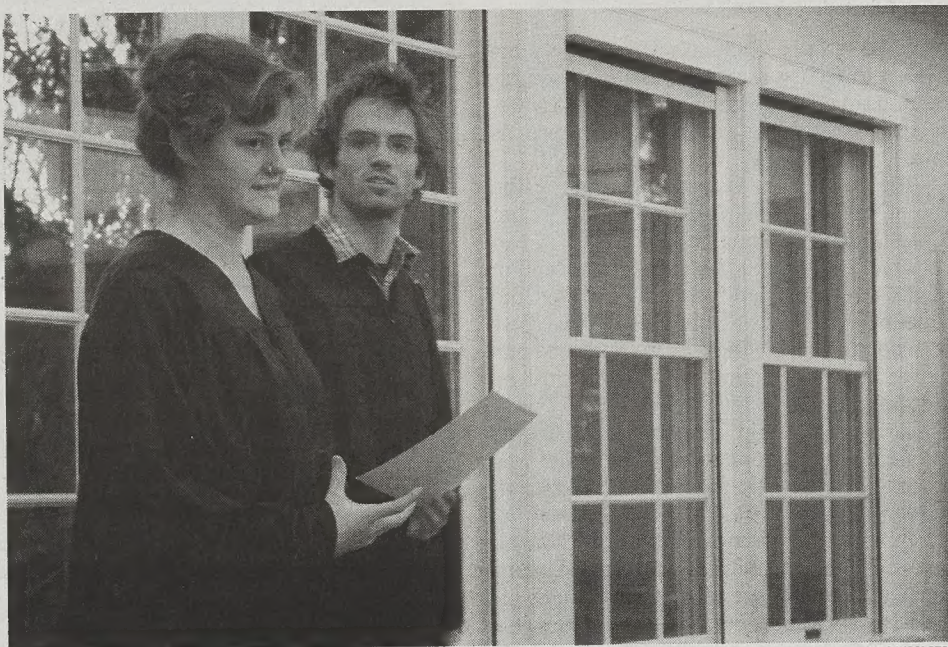
During the session, the tone of the room shifted back and forth between students for and against the demonstrations.

Janet Bering '13 prefaced a question on arctic drilling by stating that she was pleased that the executive had visited the College, knowing that, "many students were excited to come and to ask questions respectfully."

Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography Kasy McKinney, then asked Ljosne to reflect upon his personal experience working in Nigeria for five years as part of his 20-year career with Shell. She called the contemporary situation in the Niger Delta, a "tragic situation, in which Shell has played a major role."

"Nigeria is an extremely complex society," Ljosne responded. "It's underdeveloped, [in a] tragically underdeveloped area of the world ... the history of Nigeria is a complex one, and a very violent one."

In his answer, Ljosne spoke of government corruption and conflicts between communities, and stated that he believed that oil companies are "losing



Anna Shireman-Grabowski '15 and Jay Saper '13 presented Shell Executive Olav Ljosne with a fake honorary degree "of humane letters" from the college.

between \$5-8 billion per year" in products that are stolen and illegally channeled into markets.

"Do you think that Shell is able to take any responsibility for what has happened [in the Niger Delta]?" McKinney pressed.

"Shell is not taking responsibility for what is happening in Nigeria," Ljosne said. "We take responsibility for what we are doing, what Shell is doing."

Shortly thereafter, Amitai Ben-Abba '15.5 and Sam Koplinka-Loehr '13.5, two of the students of the self-titled Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee, a group of students who served as the respondents in the recent public hearing for violations to the College Handbook, came to the center of the room to interrupt the question and answer session.

"Everything being said here is a lie," said Ben-Abba. "We are surrounded by this deception ... We are lying to ourselves ... This person is whitewashing corporate war crimes against humanity. Are you hearing this noise?"

Scott Rowland '12, a student member of the audience, then interrupted Ben-Abba.

"You're the one making noise, and you're an embarrassment to this college," he said. "This is ridiculous." To this, several students clapped.

Both Ben-Abba and Koplinka-Loehr fell to the floor in a visual representation of the deaths of the Nigerian people.

The question and answer session came to a close with an inquiry by one student about the hypothetical impact of colleges and universities divesting from fossil fuel companies.

"I don't know if the campuses around the world are invested in Shell or in any of the other oil companies," Ljosne said. "The impact is very difficult for me to say anything about."

DISCUSSION CONTINUES AFTER LECTURE

Following the conclusion of the event, reactions were as polarized as the perspectives of the many who had participated in the dialogue.

Bree Baccaglini '15, a student in McKinney's "Geographic Perspectives on International Development" class, reflected on the event.

"The thrust of what we learned [in our class] was that Shell has destroyed Nigeria and its people," she said, "and that there is a whole lot of rhetoric, which we just heard about, that kind of covers a lot of this up as sustainable development, and as the Niger Delta's problem. That's what we read and that's what I buy into more than the corporate 'throw your hands in the air' kind of approach."

"I thought that [the corporate rhetoric] would speak for itself ... I agree with what [the student protestors] were saying but I wouldn't want to lend my voice

in a circumstance like that," added Baccaglini.

Baccaglini concluded that, "Perhaps for people who didn't know about this, it was instructive to have the opposite side, but I think that people who have any sort of background or any previous interest [would have known what Ljosne was going to say]."

Rowland, the student who interrupted the student demonstrators, was much more critical of the protest.

"Unfortunately for the protestors, their behavior drew our focus away from the content of Mr. Ljosne's presentation, and onto themselves. Today we are debating the student's actions and not the content of Mr. Ljosne's speech," said Rowland.

"Apparently the value of learning from someone with an alternative viewpoint is lost on some of my peers," he said.

Bering, who had thanked Ljosne for coming to speak at the College, echoed Rowland's remarks.

"I thought the students' actions were really frustrating and inappropriate because it is rare on the Middlebury campus that we get to hear the perspective of an oil executive, and that perspective is not taught in our classes," she said.

"By protesting him, [those students] didn't allow for students who were genuinely interested in global energy issues to have a genuine conversation about more than just Nigeria," added Bering.

Ashley Sandy '11, director of international visitors at VCWA, explained that she was nervous before the event, having just witnessed the first of two discussions shut down at UVM, but was pleased the majority of students "listened respectfully" and that Ljosne was able to speak.

"At Middlebury it was clear that students had done their homework. There were a number of students with varying perspectives and many of them asked valuable questions of Mr. Ljosne. I think that they definitely benefitted from being able to discuss their issues with him. I was disappointed that a similar discussion wasn't able to take place at UVM because of the behavior of the audience," said Sandy.

"The students did their research. A few students might have called him a liar but they allowed him to speak, which is the only way to have constructive dialogue," she said.

"As a VCWA representative I was nervous that Mr. Ljosne might not be able to speak," continued Sandy, "As a Midd alum at the end of it, I was very proud."

According to Mayer the talk had been planned for eight months, and was scheduled with the intent of continuing to bring speakers with a diverse array of perspectives to campus.

"This is a place where everyone can speak," she said.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY ALEX EDEL '14

Bordeaux, France

As I sat at the local café, sipping a glass of wine and staring up at the cathedral, I couldn't help shake that despite the fact that I was doing all the same things as the French people around me, I still felt like I stood out as an American tourist. I have always considered myself partly European; I have a British passport and my friends mock me for my British sayings. Secretly (or not so secretly) I loved it. It made me a bit different back in Middlebury, but coming to France I needed no help feeling different and in fact feeling completely un-European.

While at first my American accent gave me away, that's by far not the only reason why I found it hard to become a French student here. For a start, everyone here eats huge amounts for every meal of the day. Not many girls my age still play sports, and sometimes I feel like swimmer shoulders are a huge disability. With often two bags and my shoulders (which my host sister comments on at least once a day), it is hard to fit myself into the jam packed tram and I often dream of the days when my morning commute was from Hepburn to Proctor.

With professors, friends and family constantly telling me to become immersed in the culture, for the first month here I was really easily discouraged by the fact that I constantly felt just a little bit out of place. I have made great friends here, however not all of them are actually French, which only added to the fact that when out at a bar I feel like all eyes were on us (and not in a good way).

However, I have come to realize that it might just be me. I wasn't expecting the culture shock when I got here. It is France after all. I'm not in a country completely unfamiliar like friends who are studying in Egypt or in Kenya. I think that because of this fact, I never even thought about the fact that France is not like the U.S. and that while I'm more at ease than people studying in non-European countries, it doesn't mean that I can expect to be treated the exact same way I am in the U.S.

So slowly I have begun to look at my daily insecurities in a new light. Maybe I feel squished on the tram because there are 100 people in a space made for 60, and maybe people are looking at us because they are just interested in why there are foreign-sounding people in a local bar, rather than looking down on us. I have come to accept and appreciate the fact that I'm American. My French is better now so people don't necessarily notice right away that I'm American. Instead, I tell them that I am, and after the obligatory quick political talk about the last election, we go on to talk not about our nationalities but about ourselves. Through this, I've accepted that yes, it was a bit of a culture shock at first, but that it is possible to immerse oneself and still be foreign at the same time.

In fact, I think that I am even more proud and thankful to be an American now that I have lived abroad. I know that everyone talks about how much time they have to reflect on who they are as a person and really discover themselves while they are abroad. As many who know me can tell you, I'm not really big into self-reflection or self-discovery, but without thinking, I have realized that I am much prouder and appreciate much more my American heritage. While I haven't had one singular moment of complete self-awareness and discovery, I am thankful that I have had this experience to reflect and discover my real patriotic nature.

COLLEGE SHORTS

NEW

NEWS FROM ACROSS

US FROM ACROSS THE NATION

IS THE NATION

Amherst students distribute t-shirts calling for higher awareness of sexual assault

A provocative t-shirt distributed at Amherst's homecoming weekend last week has reignited controversy surrounding sexual assault on its campus, coming in the wake of an open letter written by a sexual assault victim, Angie Epifano, printed in the school's student newspaper on Oct. 17.

As an effort to keep campus-wide conversation alive in response to Epifano's letter, a group of students handed out t-shirts to students and alumni in attendance at the homecoming athletic events.

The front of the shirt features Lord Jeff, Amherst's mascot, gripping a broom in one hand and lifting a rug, accompanied by the words, "Amherst: Sweeping Sexual Assault Under the Rug since 1821." The back of the shirt reads, "Silence has the rusty taste of shame. We will be silent no more. Demand zero tolerance for sexual violence now."

A petition was circulated alongside the t-shirts calling for the administration to undertake greater initiatives to prevent sexual assault on campus. The students handing out the t-shirts expressed fear that meaningful progress would cease as soon as media coverage surrounding Epifano's open letter dies down, and hoped that the t-shirts would help keep discussion alive.

— The Amherst Student

University of Vermont students protest talk by Shell representative

On Nov. 14, University of Vermont (UVM) students affiliated with Rising Tide Vermont, interrupted a presentation at the UVM campus by Olav Ljosne, senior manager of international operations for multinational petroleum giant Royal Dutch Shell. Ljosne was speaking on a panel discussion titled "Big Oil in the Niger Delta," during which he was joined by two co-panelists, UVM Professor of Political Science Greg Gause and Visiting Professor at the UVM Law School Benjamin Sovacool, who manages Vermont Law School's Energy Security and Justice Program.

Rising Tide Vermont is a climate justice organization based out of Burlington, Vt. Nine activists stood up throughout Ljosne's presentation, rendering it impossible for him to speak. The activists shared testimonies of Nigerians living in the delta to protest Shell's role in the destruction of Nigerian ecosystems and communities through its extraction activity and relationships with Nigeria's various military dictatorships.

The protestors left the room after finishing their remarks, followed by members of the audience as well as some of the presenters. The event was postponed and the police were called, though no arrests were made.

— Burlington Free Press

J Street U discussion exposes tensions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

told the group. Together, the participants agreed to focus on respect, assume good intentions in others' comments and use "I statements" — avoiding generalizations such as "we," "they" or "you."

The group then viewed a timeline of the recent violence published in an article from *The Atlantic*. Breaking off into groups of two or three, participants discussed the inception of the violence. Many students believed the timeline was essentially pointless; regardless of who started the attacks, several students agreed that the continuing violence must be stopped.

However, certain students did express strong feelings that one side or the other was more to blame for the current state of the dispute.

Turning the discussion toward U.S. involvement in the conflict, the group read from the U.S. Department of State statement on Gaza Rocket Attacks, which includes the statement, "We support Israel's right to defend itself, and we encourage Israel to continue to take every effort to avoid citizen casualties."

One student believed that the U.S.'s focus on Israel might be inflaming the issue; the U.S. is not playing the role of peacemaker if American policy unilaterally supports one side, he argued.

A number of students agreed that the U.S. has noted Hamas as the aggressor, but the implications is that Palestinians as a whole must bear the brunt of the punishment.

Arguments arose over the nature of Hamas' charter, which was read aloud during the conversation. Some students believed it contained terrorist and anti-Semitic ideologies. Others contested this reading, saying the language frames the issue so negatively that to hold a real discussion one must look past wording and consider the facts.

Kaufman voiced opposition to a ground operation and a desire to raise awareness for diplomatic pressure.

Prompted by this discussion, one student raised the issue of the power dynamic in the room during the conversation, imploring peers to consider the history of the situation, namely the 45-year-long occupation of Gaza. When another participant asked for his permission to pose a question, this student communicated fear that the question would influence his answer. Tensions rose and Kaufman asked the group to remember the initial ground rules.

Emotions and tensions rose once more as the matter of justification for the recent killings surfaced. Some students denied that there is any justification for killing civilians, while others believed killings were justified out of desperation and defense.

At several points throughout this discus-

sion, Kaufman reined in emotional commotion by recognizing the rising frustrations in the room and reminding participants to remember others' good intentions.

Discussion then turned to the place of history in the issue, when some students advocated for the focus to concentrate only on the present, while other students argued that history and the present situation could not be separated.

"People come into these things with all different sorts of facts," said Zieve-Cohen. "Everyone here who said anything is speaking based on their own reading of history."

When the term "concentration camp" was used by one student to describe the occupation of Gaza, several participants spoke out fervently, asking him to rephrase with less offensive wording.

The discussion ended with the question of whether the issue is at gridlock or whether something can be done. Kaufman used the opportunity to describe J Street U's online petition for President Obama to call for a ceasefire.

Though Kaufman formally concluded the event, almost every student stayed to continue conversation with others.

"I'm hoping that more conversation like this can challenge this two-sided issue," said Kaufman. "I think it's non-productive to make it an issue of sides."



COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Council discusses stress at the College

By Claire Abbadi

On Monday Nov. 12, Community Council met with Administrative Programs Coordinator Ellen McKay and Mark Stefani, assistant professor of psychology, about stress on campus. Both McKay and Stefani spearheaded the Stress Committee.

Since its 2007 creation, the committee has focused on examining causes of student, faculty and staff stress, as well as possible solutions for a seemingly rapid increase in stress levels.

"From the beginning, the goals of the committee were to try to come to some understanding of what was driving student perception of very high levels of stress," said Stefani. "And perception is reality in this case, because our students are very stressed, and we wanted to look at what was causing that."

During the 2010 and 2011 academic years, the committee received funding from the Sloan Foundation to sponsor programs designed to help members of the community gain a better sense of work-life balance. Last year the committee merged with the Optimal Health Committee on campus, which was established for faculty and staff, and now shares a budget with them to put on activities, workshops and sponsor speakers on stress management.

On the agenda this year is to continue to sponsor yoga and meditation classes. The committee is also interested in bringing in Cal Newport, a computer science professor from Georgetown University, who would speak on how to get the most out of your time while still operating at a high performance level.

These activities aside, the Stress Committee faces a difficult task, because identifying the exact cause of student stress has proven difficult and finding solutions can be even more challenging. The committee took on the task of looking at academic syllabi from the past 20 years in search of the answer to what exactly is causing stress.

"We have found it very, very difficult to get reliable data that confirms or disconfirms the causes of stress," said Stefani. "Is it that

workload has increased or are syllabi more challenging? The general consensus was that workload had not increased dramatically over the past 20 years, but student involvement in extracurriculars has increased significantly."

Doug Adams, associate dean of students, confirmed that extracurricular involvement among students is at an all-time high.

"How do you do more while actually doing less?" asked Adams. "And the willingness to say 'no' to certain activities and opportunities is a hard life choice to start making."

Members at the meeting also discussed the idea that stress can be beneficial when managed correctly and that the College should not discourage hard work or extracurricular involvement. However, they said, there is a limit to both of those things.

Professor of Film and Media Culture Leger Grindon cited the nature of students at a school like Middlebury as part of the problem.

"You're caught in a tough dilemma," said Grindon. "Because anyone who is ambitious, which most of our students are, experience a lot of stress. And stress can be positive and create high levels of performance, but I think it is about stress management."

Student Co-Chair of Community Council Barrett Smith '13 agreed with Grindon's sentiment.

"Middlebury in the last 20 years has been at the forefront of small liberal arts colleges," said Smith. "As a result of that, a lot of our students come from the top 10 percent of their high schools and want to assume that position right away when they get here. And isn't that process an inherent part of being an elite institution?"

The Stress Committee seemed somewhat at a loss for what had changed in student culture and work habits that caused such high levels of stress. Though the Stress Committee claims course syllabi are not significantly more demanding than they were 20 years ago, some members of the community have discussed the possibility that students are being asked to do unreasonable amounts of

work.

"In a meeting a few years ago, my colleagues and I in the film and media studies department had a conversation about what is a reasonable amount of work to ask from students," said Grindon. "Multiple members in the meeting felt that they should assign more than what they thought was reasonable for students to complete so some very diligent students would approach this expectation and the rest would fall on a curve downwards, but it would create an ambitious environment. I don't think there is a standard among our faculty about the reading that should be required."


The consensus of the committee seemed to be that stress could be mainly attributed to increases in extracurricular involvement, as well as student culture that facilitates an environment of academic excellence.

Dean of the College Shirley Collado thought that the work students have to do in order to get to a prestigious college helps to explain how those habits continue once they arrive at Middlebury.

"Our students come here after being developmentally on a treadmill for years and we are asking them to un-do the coaching and molding that has taken place for years in life," said Collado. "Some kids have been coached for years to get to the 'Middleburys' of the world and now we ask them to try new classes and new things. And I think developmentally that is very hard to undo."

The Stress Committee will continue to examine stress on campus and offer meditations, which will be reviewed by Community Council.

In meetings on Nov. 12 and Nov. 26, Community Council also began to finalize its prioritized agenda. At the top of the list of issues to address are sexual assault on campus, communication and the social house review process. The council has already met with members from KDR, Xenia and Tavern in an effort to get to know the philosophies of the respective houses before the review process begins.



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FRIDAY AT 8 P.M.

Rita Pfeiffer '15 and Friends

Nashville-native Rita Pfeiffer '15 will be joined by a group of Middlebury students to perform originals and covers.
FRIDAY 9 - 11 P.M.
51 MAIN

Kat Wright and the Indomitable Soul Band

Get ready to move to the deep, sultry grooves of rising vocalist Kat Wright and the all-star Indomitable Soul Band.
SATURDAY 10 P.M. - 12 A.M.
51 MAIN

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MONDAY 7 P.M.
BIHALL 220

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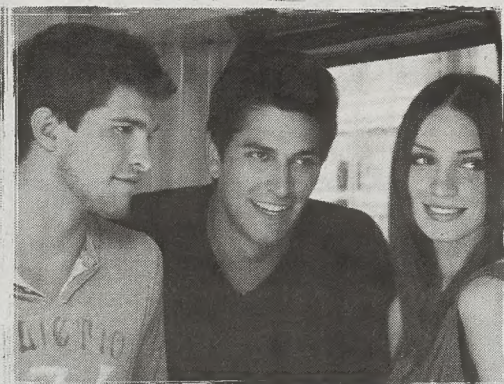
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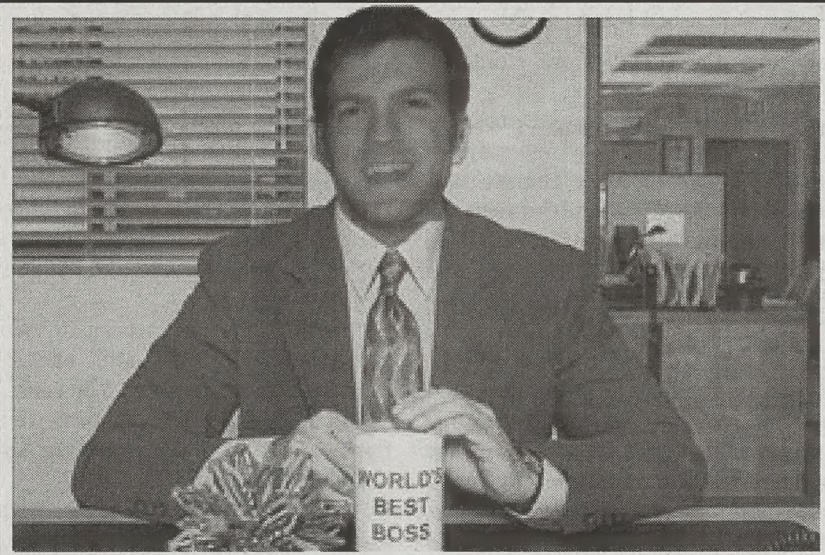
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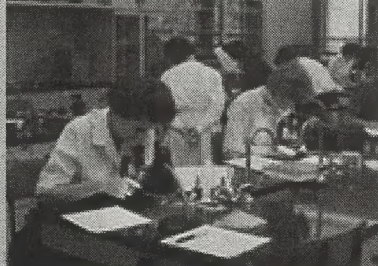
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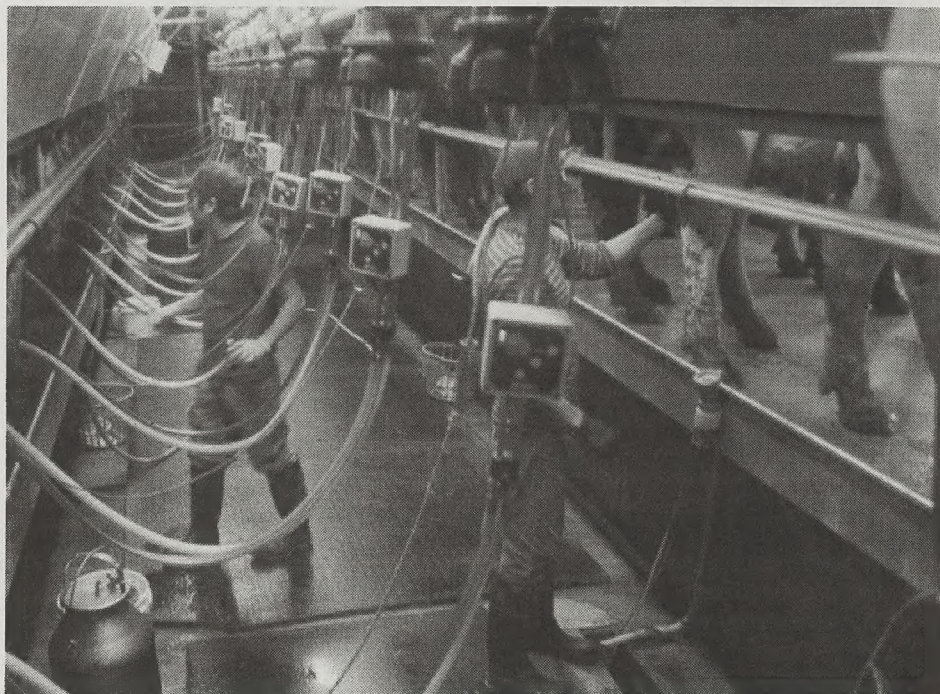


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Migrant workers gather for passports, allies push for rights



COURTESY OF VT DIGGER

Mexican migrant workers operate the industrial milking system at a Vermont dairy.

By Anna Stevens

On Nov. 17 hundreds of Mexican migrant farmers congregated at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Middlebury; some waited for passport photos to be printed, some received flu shots from the Open Door Clinic, some read flyers distributed by WomenSafe, some chatted with friends but most sat patiently waiting for their new passports. While many individuals attended the annual event, which is hosted by the Vermont Migrant Farmworkers Coalition, to receive health screenings and gather winter clothes, the event had a second purpose as well — the Mexican Consulate was visiting to issue passports and matriculate identification cards to the workers.

The Mexican Consulate visits Vermont once or twice a year — usually in Middlebury, although recently in Plainfield as well — to offer Mexican farm workers the opportunity to receive documents from their home country. The consulate visits these areas due to their higher concentrations of migrant workers, though Mexican farmworkers are located throughout the state and in parts of upstate New York and New Hampshire. Therefore some workers travel great distances to attend this one-day event, relying on employers, but mainly volunteers for transportation since most migrant workers do not qualify for drivers' licenses.

Immigrant labor in Vermont is not a new development. For over a decade, Jamaican workers have provided the bulk of labor for apple harvest in the fall months and Mexican workers have been a stable part of Vermont's dairy industry, tending day and night to the milk production cycle. What separates Mexican laborers from other immigrant laborers, however, is their status; seasonal workers, such as those from Jamaica, can receive H-2A visas, which permit workers to legally fill temporary agricultural jobs, assuming that they will not adversely affect employment opportunities for domestic laborers. The nature of dairy farming denies laborers the opportunity for such visas, as dairy farming is a year-round operation and demands full-time employment.

Herein lies the problem for many Mexican migrant farm workers. Since they are unable to secure work visas, some illegally travel thousands of miles, from Mexico to Vermont, to find work on dairy farms. Faced by the constant threat

of deportation, the demanding nature of dairy farming and the reality of no legal rights, Mexican workers are forced to remain hidden, trapped on the farms where they work.

Many activist groups, such as the Vermont Migrant Farmworkers Coalition, have been formed to help these undocumented workers find resources and feel a part of a community. This coalition has existed over a decade and is made up of committed volunteers — students, doctors, social workers and others — who work together to serve the needs of migrant farmers and promote awareness of issues they face in Vermont.

According to Cheryl Mitchell, co-head of the Vermont Migrant Farmworkers Coalition, today's migrant laborers suffer from a variety of problems, highlighted by immigration and legal issues.

"Obviously the major challenge is immigration status," Mitchell said. "They cannot get a green card status. We have been talking about [immigrant status] ever since I have been involved, so at least 10 years, and it has never passed. For people not to have legal status while they're here is very difficult."

Additional problems have become less urgent in recent years. Mitchell commends the efforts of health and social service providers, who have addressed health needs, distributed clothing and provided transportation for doctors' visits or trips to the grocery store. A looming concern, however, is the state of the current dairy industry in Vermont.

"The other big issue is the fragility of farming," Mitchell reflected. "The whole agricultural sector right now is fragile, so if the farms go under then the workers are here with nothing to do. It used to be that if somebody [wanted] to come up and [wanted] a job we could call around and see who [was] hiring. Not so many people are hiring anymore because the farms are going out of business."

While this issue raises significant concern for migrant and domestic laborers alike, lack of transportation remains a more immediate problem for the well being of undocumented workers in Vermont. Some farmers provide transportation for the laborers, but most receive help from volunteer groups, such as Amistad or Juntos — a Middlebury College student volunteer group. Due to this reliance, farm workers rarely feel self-sufficient and many feel trapped. Migrant Justice, with backing from the

Vermont Migrant Farmworkers Coalition and other allies, has assumed an advocacy role for migrant laborers and is lobbying for workers to have the opportunity to obtain driver's licenses.

Danilo Lopez, a former migrant worker and a leader of Migrant Justice is working hard to get this legislation passed.

"We want the members of our communities to have access to everything — to basic needs, such as being able to get driver's licenses," Lopez explained through translator Danny Loehr '13.5, a student board member of Juntos. "But it is not just about having a license and being able to drive. It is about being independent — being able to do what we need to do when we need to do it and not always being dependent on others."

Migrant Justice was formed three years ago as a response to the unmet needs of migrant farmers in Vermont, but only gained traction following the tragic death of a young worker on a dairy farm in Fairfield, Vt. on Dec. 22, 2009. Since its creation, Migrant Justice has achieved many of its goals by creating a family-like atmosphere for the migrant community that lends support to workers and informs them of their rights while raising money for the release of detained workers. Over the past year Migrant Justice has worked with the migrant community to develop a list of five initiatives they hope to achieve, and presented the list to Governor Peter Shumlin.

This list includes better access to health resources, a bias-free policing policy, improved labor and living conditions, access to driver's licenses and immigration reform that removes the federal government's "Secure Communities" program. In spring 2012 Vermont implemented the federal program "Secure Communities," which allows state police to contact the Department of Homeland Security with questions regarding immigrant status. According to Lopez, migrant communities call this law "Insecure Communities," as the program has made immigrants more wary of going to state officials with problems or complaints for fear of being detained or deported. While "Secure Communities" remains in effect, Migrant Justice has been successful in implementing a bias-free policing policy, restricting racial profiling.

Despite the group's successes, members of Migrant Justice are not satisfied with their progress.

"In the past year I have been really impressed; a lot more people have gotten involved and we have really gotten a lot done," said David Santiago, a current farm laborer and member of Migrant Justice. "But of course there is always more to do ... Our final goal is to be completely independent."

While members of Migrant Justice and the Vermont Migrant Farmworker Coalition feel optimistic that during the upcoming year Senate Bill 238, which would allow undocumented workers to obtain driver's licenses, will be passed, many in the state are not so supportive. Critics of the proposed legislation believe that affording Mexican laborers the freedom to drive gives them unfair privileges. Additionally, many do not want to grant illegal workers rights that legal guest workers would not have. These considerations have been taken into account and the bill has been highly revised. As of now, advocates must wait until the beginning of the term, in January 2013, to introduce the bill to lawmakers.

The average migrant farmer stays in Vermont for two to three years, working to save up money to send home to help his family. Since many workers have dreams of starting their own businesses upon their return to Mexico, much of the money they make goes into savings. When they feel they have saved enough money, passports are the key to their successful return home. The annual Mexican Consulate visit, therefore, is vital for many workers who are not in possession of passports or official documents.

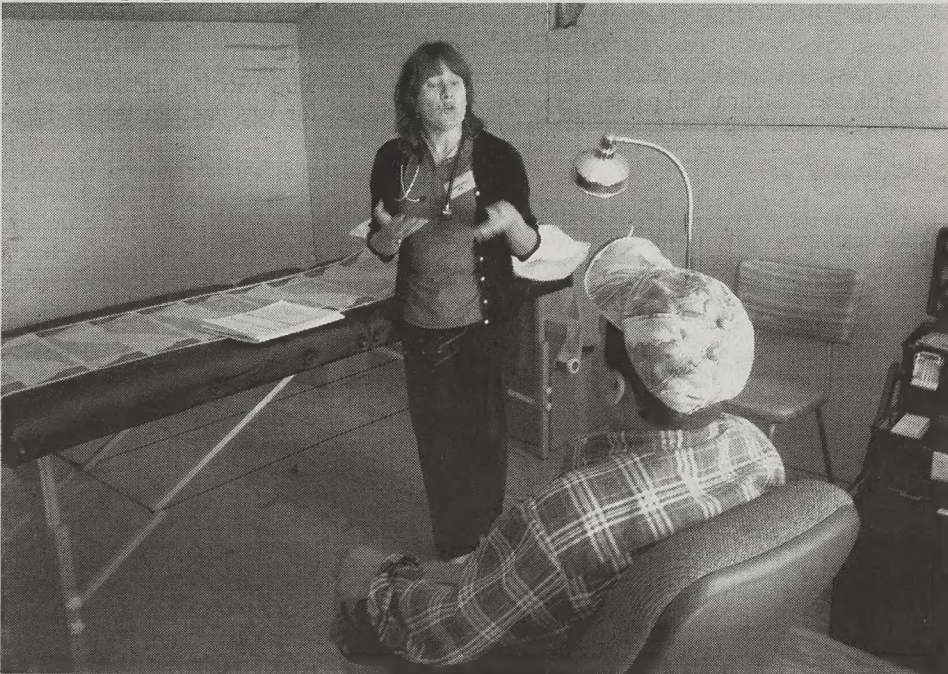
Lopez attends each of the Consulate visits, hoping to reach out to more migrant workers and get them involved.

"We want to have a community that can organize and understand [migrant workers'] rights and be able to work more justly in Vermont," said Lopez. "We do not want to be [invisible] members of the Vermont agricultural system, but rather recognized hands of the farm-working system."

Beyond greater access for workers, the goal of Migrant Justice and migrant farm laborers at large is to be recognized.

"The most important thing we want," Lopez said, "is to show we are humans, not dairy machines."

This recognition comes with cultural change — one that is vital for the hundreds who help run Vermont's dairy industry.



COURTESY OF JULIA DOUCET

A nurse explains health issues to a migrant laborer at Middlebury's Open Door Clinic.

Middlebury residents debate language of town plan

By Devin MacDonald

The town of Middlebury has always been known for its small, homegrown feel. This atmosphere has been cultivated over the years by the many locally owned businesses that bring quality goods to Addison County.

Until 2002, however, those looking for the convenience of bulk shopping had the option of Ames, a large department store that operated where Hannaford's now reigns in a plaza entering the town on Route 7. When the store went out of business at the beginning of the millennium, however, many citizens struggled finding a place to purchase their goods at an affordable price without having to drive to Burlington, Rutland or Fort Ticonderoga.

As a result of the loss of Ames and the boom of Wal-Mart and other such stores, concerns have arisen in Middlebury about the possibility of big-box stores moving in and ruining the atmosphere of the town. The situation has become more and more complicated as citizens voice their opinions surrounding the restriction of retail store size in Middlebury.

Ben Wilson, president of the Better Middlebury Partnership and assistant director of prospect research at the College, has been invested in this issue and underlines the importance of understanding the background story.

"In 2005, the Middlebury Business Association got a petition together to amend the zoning," said Wilson. "They got over 1,100 signatures to put a 50,000 square-foot limit in the zoning."

At that point in time, the zoning was indeed amended and has been enforced ever since. Ames was 50,000 square-feet, as is the current Hannaford's store. The Better Middlebury Partnership was acting on a concern born from the eruption of super-stores such as Wal-Mart and Target.

The issue has arisen again because the same language used in zoning has been applied to drafts of the new town plan, created once every five years. The plan differs from the zoning in that once approved, the town

plan becomes law. The zoning can never exceed it – it acts as a ceiling that would ensure that retail stores would be restricted to a reasonable size, regardless of any changes made to zoning policy in the future.

This language was consequently removed because citizens present at initial public hearings did not want the restriction in the document.

"This is nuanced in the sense that people have different reasons for not wanting it in," said Wilson. "It wasn't a block of people who want one thing or another; people have all different reasons for arguing against it."

Reasons for being against the restriction ranged from not wanting to seem anti-business, to believing the town plan should be a visionary document and not include something already taken care of in zoning, to wanting to have large superstores in the area.

The select board, hearing these complaints, took out the provision. The subsequent drafts of the town plan have not included the 50,000 square-foot bar. However, the issue is still pertinent because of the push-back against removing such language. There are fears amongst the other faction of citizens that without the restriction in the town plan, a superstore could move in and change the feel of Middlebury, create unfair competition for smaller stores, and eliminate the intimate and quaint feel of the town.

Robin Scheu, Executive Director of Addison County Economic Development Corporation and Middlebury resident, understands the predicament and the need to come to a solution that works best for the area.

"It could be a great thing for Addison County if done well," said Scheu. "As long as things are fully discussed, we'll make good decisions."

Beth Corey, owner of Red Clover Farm Market on Route 7 in Middlebury, sees both sides of the issue.

"I wouldn't want our town to turn into a town with box stores," said Corey, "but a moderate sized Target would draw people in and help the community. I don't think it necessarily means that we're going to have 'super' anything – I don't think anybody wants



A department store such as the Target pictured above may find a home in Middlebury that."

As both a resident and small business owner, Corey has a relatively unique position. She doesn't want too much competition or her business won't survive, but also with the demands of her job it is hard to find time to travel to get items at the best prices. Overall, however, Corey is in support of leaving the language out.

"I lean more towards not having the cap," said Corey. "I don't want to see strip malls and box stores in Middlebury more than anyone else, but one reasonably sized store would be a benefit to the community."

Her customers are loyal, and she sees that as a testament to the mentality of Middlebury residents in general. Having a convenient place to get items ranging from baby strollers to senior citizen appropriate clothing would not necessarily mean a drop in sales for local stores because of the dedication shown by residents. It is also worth considering the possibility that a convenient retail store such as Target would draw people from surrounding towns into Middlebury,

creating more economic flow and hopefully new customers to local stores.

Although opinions about the retail store restriction are varied and it has caused contention among people all over Addison County, communication remains the focus of the discussion.

"I think it's important to talk," said Wilson. "You can't have a community where you aren't listening to the other side. We should walk in our neighbors shoes for a bit and understand that both sides clearly love this town."

The Better Middlebury Partnership will be facilitating those conversations in the upcoming months, in the hopes to come to a consensus about what is best for the town of Middlebury. At this point in time, it is unclear as to what the result will be but with the cooperation of businesses, citizens and the planning commission, all voices will be heard as the town strives to simultaneously maintain the feel of the town and promote economic growth.

Vermonters worried by 2013 Farm Bill

By Liia Koiv-Haus

Vermont farmers have a lot at stake in the drafting of the 2012 farm bill, which is expected to include a record number of budget cuts due to the current state of the economy. The farm bill, which is renewed every five years, has been a recurring entity in legislation since the years of the Great Depression, when growers of commodity crops first began receiving subsidies.

Vermont dairy farmers are struggling as a result of the record drought last summer, among other factors. Though grain belt farmers were directly impacted by the drought, the cost burden was passed on to dairy farmers, who are forced to pay a higher price for grain in order to feed their animals. Now these same farmers face the risk of losing the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) safety net they have depended on for years.

This past September when the 2008 Farm Bill expired, dairy policy leaders in the Senate and House pushed for an interim budget plan to serve as a temporary safety net until the new Farm Bill passed. This initiative at the national level was led by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT), as well as Representative Peter Welch (D-VT). However, they were unable to divert attention from other priorities in Congress and as a result, commodity farmers dependent on the federal government for subsidies now find themselves in limbo.

Many in Congress agree that it is unfair to put farmers' lives on hold and continue to push for action.

"The farmers already confront enough uncertainty running their businesses. When we let farm programs expire without enacting a new farm bill, it needlessly compounds that uncertainty and it is irresponsible," argued Leahy in a speech this month on the Senate floor. He pointed out that both farmers and underprivileged urban classes are suffering as a result of this delay, which has also put funding for federal nutrition and food stamps programs on hold.

"Vermonters, like tens of millions of people across the country, depend upon

these programs [when] they are struggling to put enough food on their table during these very tough economic times," Leahy added.

Now that the 2008 Farm Bill (officially called the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008) has expired, Congress is still unable to agree on a final 2012 bill, which will be called the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012. This \$500 billion farm bill is currently deadlocked in Congress during the post-election lame duck session.

"The challenge for the current farm bill is that many conservative Republican members in the House want to see federal government spending cut substantially, which means cuts to programs and interests," pointed out Stafford Professor of Public Policy, Political Science and Environmental Studies Chris Klyza.

"This influences the political dynamics – a representative from urban Philadelphia may have voted for the Farm Bill in the past because of food aid for her constituents. If that aid is cut, why should she vote for drought aid for western ranchers?" Klyza proposed.

Many conservatives in Congress are pressing for budget cuts all around. The Democrat-led Senate passed their version of the bill in June, proposing budget cuts of around \$35 billion over the next 10 years. While this proposal was enough to appease Senate Republicans wary of government spending, the Republican-led House has still been unable to reach a compromise. Up until early this month, representatives had the excuse of being distracted by campaigns for reelection, but now the only remaining obstacle is gridlock.

Gridlock usually refers to clashing partisan interests, but in the farm bill debate it is actually regional interests that are preventing compromise. The recurring farm bill debate is unusual in that it actually transcends political party divisions.

Democrats and Republicans alike from districts with agriculturally-dependent economies tend to push equally for gener-

ous subsidies. Similarly, other conservatives find a common goal with liberals involved in the local foods movement: to eliminate excessive subsidies for wealthy farmers who don't actually need them. Back in 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed the Farm Bill for benefiting overly wealthy farmers, as it guaranteed aid to farmers with a gross income of up to \$750,000. The overwhelmingly Democratic Congress overrode his veto.

Some point out that there is an incredible amount of antiquated logic embedded in the farm bill. Josh Slotnick, farmer and professor at the University of Montana who lectured at the College earlier this week, pointed out the injustice in our food system.

"If you want to sell your bike on Craigslist, you are the one who sets the price," said Slotnick. "For growers of commodity crops, they don't have that privilege. The buyer sets the price. You're dealing with a whole different realm."

Gradual cutback of subsidies would work in the favor of commodity farmers in the long run, gradually giving them more autonomy and stability over their incomes. Budget cuts would benefit smaller farmers by putting them on a more level playing field with large-scale conventional farmers of commodity crops.

In recent years, concerns over the impact of dwindling natural resources and increasing demand due to rising population have pushed conservation issues into consideration under the Farm Bill. Support for local, sustainably grown food was also growing; although the 2008 financial crisis has dampened this support.

Native Vermonter Hillary Chutter-Ames '13 emphasizes how farms are "the key to maintaining a sustainable local food system and building strong communities." According to Chutter-Ames, they are "a vital part of the social and economic fabric of Vermont."

With the uncertainty of the upcoming bill, this social and economic fabric – and farmers' livelihoods – remain at stake.

LOCAL LOWDOWN 24

Wildlife biologist gives talk in Brandon

On Friday, biologist Ben Kilham will discuss his experience raising orphaned black bears in Lyme, N.H. The free talk, which will be held at Otter Valley Union High School, is sponsored the Staying Connected Initiative which will begin the evening with a presentation about local wildlife.

NOV. 30, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Christmas Bazaar in Bristol

Can't wait for Christmas? Come to the Bristol Federated Church on Saturday morning to meet Santa, enjoy a hot lunch and some afternoon tea, and get some last-minute shopping done. The event will also feature delicious baked goods, a silent auction and Christmas decorations. For more information, call 802-453-2379

DEC. 1, 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Sheldon Museum Holiday Open House in Middlebury

This year's holiday open house will exhibit the work of local woodcarver Peter Padua, two Grandma Moses prints and antique winter photographs. The event also features holiday activities, carols, electric trains, cookies and a holiday raffle. Visit www.henrysheldonmuseum.org or call 802-388-2117 for details

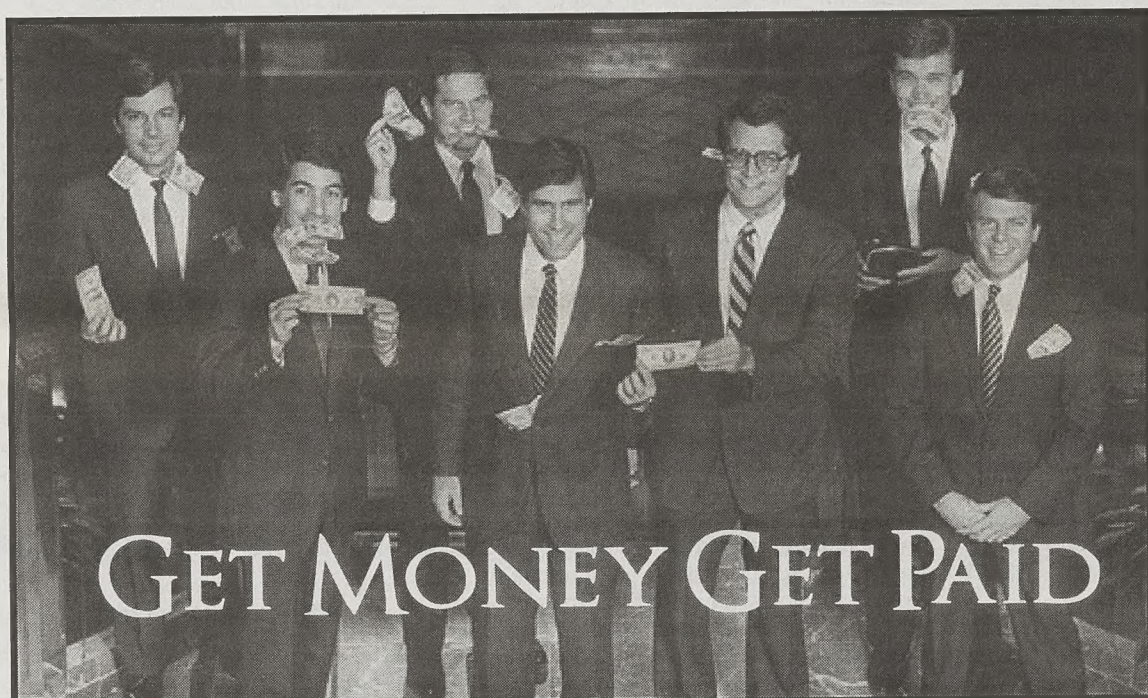
DEC. 2, 12 P.M. - 6 P.M.

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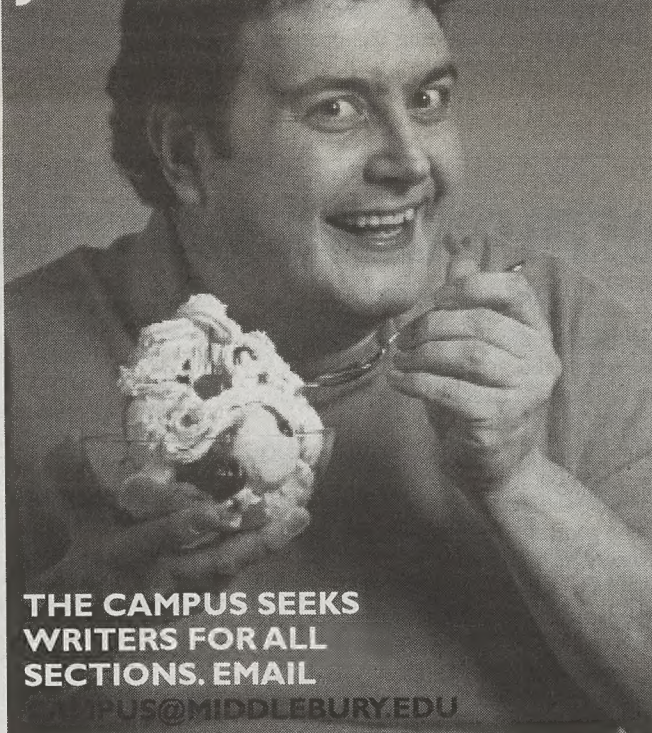
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The nuances of free speech on campus

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

On Thursday, Nov. 15, Olav Ljosne, senior manager of international operations at Royal Dutch Shell, came to campus to speak on a variety of topics, including the future of energy demand and conflict surrounding oil. Both students and members of the faculty filled the Robert A. Jones '59 (RAJ) Conference Room to hear the talk, titled "Meeting Future Energy Needs." Unlike the day before at the University of Vermont, where a group of climate justice activists inter-

rupted Ljosne to the extent that his presentation could not proceed, those in attendance at the College did allow for Ljosne to speak during his allotted time. However, the talk was not without interruptions. Before Ljosne began, two students presented him with a fake diploma while graduation music played, congratulating him for engaging in "multiple human rights violations consistent with the practices of the Middlebury College endowment." During the question period at the end of the talk, two other students became agitated, accusing Ljosne of being a liar, before falling to the floor in protest. However, a student drew applause from some members of the audience when, in response, he told his peers that they were embarrassing the College and should stop.

The question we ask ourselves in light of these events concerns the status of free speech on this campus. To what extent are students willing to tolerate such behavior as was exhibited by the protesters, some of whom are members of the Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee (DLWC)? Clearly, opinions diverge. Some find the means through which these students expressed themselves to be entirely consistent with the severity of the topic at hand, which dealt in part with accusations against Shell of human rights violations in Nigeria. Others, however, consider such behavior offensive and disrespectful, not only to Ljosne, who made the effort to come to campus, but also to those in attendance who wanted to learn more about Shell's position and engage in sincere, constructive dialogue.

It seems clear that the protesters at Thursday's meeting aimed to spark thoughtful discussion around Shell's practices. Though many on campus may agree with the criticisms raised by this group of students, their actions, ironically enough, appeared to inhibit dialogue to a far greater degree than to facilitate it. As in the aftermath of the false press release sent out by the DLWC, once again the student body is left deciphering the actions of a small group, as opposed to critically analyzing the content of the issue at hand. Substantive discussion regarding Shell's oil practices in Nigeria is largely absent from the current dialogue on campus, replaced with chatter about the drama that unfolded at Thursday's talk. Certainly, the dialogue

that ensues such protest cannot be entirely controlled by the protesters themselves; it is up to the students to decide whether or not they will focus on the critical issues. However, protesters do have the ability to project an inviting manner, engaging more students and promoting a more productive dialogue.

The current reality shows the paralyzing effects resulting from protest that polarizes a portion of the student body. Activism that engages many groups of people is not necessarily weak activism; in fact, throughout history, the most successful movements demonstrate that there is great strength in numbers. The efforts of a small group, however worthy they may be, will ultimately fail unless they solidify a broader following by appealing to more people and including those with slightly different viewpoints. Activists may also find that educating students on the issues before a controversial speaker arrives will help to facilitate constructive dialogue. While some of the activists at Thursday's meeting hold forums each Friday to discuss issues with the college community, how inviting are such events to others who feel intimidated by the group's aggressive tactics? Further, activists should look to diversify how they communicate, expanding beyond the spaces they establish; it shouldn't matter what platform or forum is used — a productive conversation can happen anywhere, from Proctor tables to Middblog, and should not take place solely on their terms.

Taking a step back, we see that the real issue here is not between Middlebury students and a visiting representative from Shell. Certainly, students owe guest speakers who come to campus a certain degree of respect, even if they disagree vehemently with that speaker's opinion. For the most part, protesters at Thursday's meeting did allow Ljosne to speak.

The crux of the issue, then, is the relationship between the protesters and their peers — the rest of the student body. Middlebury students are bright, incredibly passionate people who bring different skills and perspectives to the table. As members of a small college community, we are somewhat surprised to see those with whom we attend class and interact on a daily basis challenge authority in such an overt manner. Protest does not necessarily have to be

loud and dramatic to be effective; taping their mouths during Ljosne's talk, showing solidarity by dressing in one color or picketing outside the RAJ are alternate methods that might have been less polarizing and more effective. The reason we remain focused on the methods and drama of the situation instead of the content of the matter itself reflects the fact we are accustomed to the type of constructive, inclusive discussion in which all can voice their opinions and contribute.

Free speech on campus has many dimensions — it implies an atmosphere that encourages collaboration and open exchange of divergent ideas, as well as tolerance of others. In this case, we must tolerate those who protest a visiting speaker, as well as acknowledge the right of the speaker himself to express his ideas, and the rights of other students to speak their minds. Just because others choose not to show their frustration as dramatically as the protesters does not mean that they do not care deeply about the issues. Some students, for example, asked questions that reflected thought and research. The protesters' satirical performance overshadowed, and potentially dissuaded, those who wanted to ask pointed questions in a more traditional manner. Further, receiving a reply one does not agree with — a reply that appears veiled in corporate rhetoric — may be incredibly powerful in itself; Middlebury students deserve the opportunity to be critical listeners, and hearing a stock response from a Shell representative may send a stronger signal to the student body than any amount of interruption.

Learning, progress and development of a consensus takes place in a welcoming environment, such as that of a Middlebury classroom in which professors and students alike are respected instead of ridiculed. Though classrooms may be better suited for discussion than action, we must bring these practices of dialogue into the real world. Instead of utilizing divisive tactics not conducive to constructive conversation or the inclusion of others, we as students should identify our common interests and join together to promote the type of change many of us hope for. Undoubtedly, the work we could accomplish together far exceeds that which we achieve as separate entities.

The Middlebury Campus

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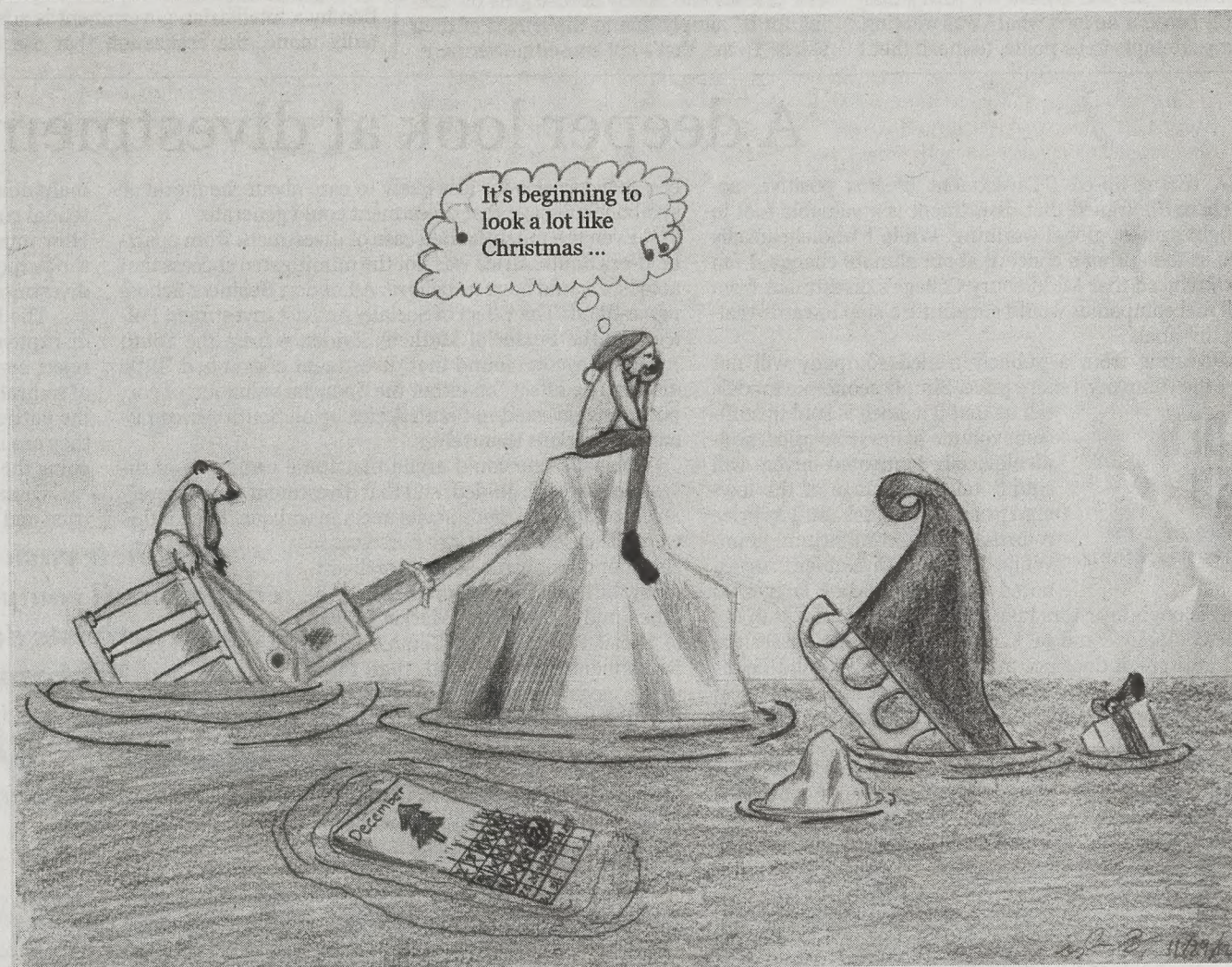
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The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.



The state of our hook-up culture

As an enthusiastic blog-following liberal feminist, I welcome new theories that challenge traditional assumptions about men and women's sexual "natures." I'm naturally drawn to critiques of the stereotypical view that women seek meaningful relationships while men look only for sexual pleasure. I was therefore intrigued when Hanna Rosin provocatively questioned the tired tropes about the American college "hookup culture" as bad for women in her September *Atlantic* article "Boys on the Side," instead claiming that we should understand the hookup culture as an "engine of female progress" — one that empowers women sexually and socially. I was eager to believe her argument that the hookup culture is "bound up with everything that's fabulous about being a young woman in 2012 — the freedom, the confidence, the knowledge that you can always depend on yourself." I celebrated Jezebel's headline that "Finally, Someone Says It: Hookup Culture Is Good for Women." And I was thrilled by the idea that today's college women have ushered in a new age of independence and control, a radical shift from the male-dominated social scene of generations before.

TAKE CARE

Caroline Kahlenberg
'14 is from Bethesda, Md.

As much as I wanted to wholeheartedly subscribe to Rosin's claims, however, I'm afraid I cannot. After sifting through the Middlebury College archives in preparation for the Women's and Gender Studies (WAGS) program's 21st anniversary, I discovered that, in reality, our campus has not seen a radical change in its social scene in the past quarter century — aside from the important shift from fraternities to social houses. Instead, there continues to be an alarming disconnect between how women are treated on weekday mornings in the classroom and on weekend nights in the basements of social houses.

In my search through the Status of Women at Middlebury Reports, I found numerous comments like this one, from 1990: "Academically, the status of women is good. They are taken seriously by faculty and equal to men. Socially, though, women are still second class citizens." Almost two decades later, in a 2008 report, students echoed this same sentiment: "Women are treated equally by the school in terms of athletics and academics. It is more the social experiences where women are being discriminated against," one student observed. In 2008, numerous students commented on the "wholly unhealthy and disgustingly unsafe" party scene and the "aggressive, violent and very dangerous" sexual atmosphere. Another revealed the pressure she felt to have sex with a man "simply because he took what I was wearing, and my attempts to be polite, to mean that I

wanted to hook up with him. I was made to feel like I had been lying, or acting deceitful, and leading him on when I said no."

While I recognize that Middlebury's hookup culture is nuanced and evolving — and certainly contains some elements of female sexual control — as a campus, we cannot applaud it uncritically as a triumph of "feminist progress." True progress, I think, would look different.

If, as Rosin seems to argue, the current hookup culture is so reasonable for women, why is alcohol such a central part of it? As a junior on this campus who has spent numerous weekend nights at social houses and other parties, I know how differently people — including me — act after a few drinks. Alcohol blurs the lines between desire, agency and consent, and we must acknowledge this. Perhaps Rosin's female empowerment argument would be more convincing in a sober environment, when women and men are fully in control of their choices and actions. It doesn't resonate as well in a setting that so heavily depends on alcohol as part of its social scene.

Can we really understand — as Cody Gohl '13 asked in his widely read Middblog post last month titled "Sluts, Whores, Hoes, OH MY!" — the "drunk 18 year-old girl in a bra screaming at the top of her lungs that she's a whore" as empowerment? Yes, women and men at Middlebury exert agency in dressing and behaving in certain ways, but is this what "liberation" really looks like? I don't think so.

My larger problem with Rosin's hookup-culture-as-empowering thesis is her overstatement of how much the larger sexual culture has changed. Even at a relatively enlightened institution like Middlebury, both men and women suggest that a woman's behavior and dress somehow invites sexual assault. Last year, I overheard one guy say to his friend of a drunken woman in a short skirt, "Man, that girl is gonna get raped tonight." And just last week, I heard one girl say to another about a third drunken woman, "Geez, is she trying to get raped?"

Indeed, our hookup culture does not grant absolute "freedom" to those involved, but instead continues to foster an often unhealthy and sometimes dangerous environment. Accepting this status quo in the name of "feminist progress" is neither correct nor constructive.

Ultimately, women have made great strides at colleges like Middlebury in the academic and athletic spheres, but we still have a long way to go in the social realm. We've moved beyond the simplistic notion that men by nature want sex and women want relationships, but in today's hookup culture, people still assign sexual behavior to how one dresses and falsely accuse girls of "asking for it" simply due to the length of their skirts. To me, that's not true empowerment.

A CANAMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVE

I am a Canamerican — one of the truest. Oh, and in the somewhat likely event that portmanteaus are not your bag, kind reader, allow me to elaborate: I am a dual citizen of Canada and America, and can't for the life of me discern which country deserves my undivided national pride. Indeed, I've recently come to the realization that my sovereign heart — beautifully, tragically — will have to remain divided. I, as if the protagonist in some outlandish romantic comedy, find myself immersed in a frantic and impassioned love affair with a set of conjoined sisters who, after years of fraternal bickering, have now settled for a healthy relationship marked by occasional banter. I can only thank God that Mexico isn't in the picture: I can salsa about as well as I can speak Spanish. *Entonces.*

My select identity as a citizen of America is a double-sided coin. I face blushing ridicule for my country's comely affinity for hockey and mounted police officers, while at the same time defending my country's liberty-swathed rock-em-sock-em affinity for itself. But more importantly, I've been able to fashion a relatively objective lens through which to view both countries. And Thanksgiving in Ireland is like a whole new prescription for my American glasses.

The perspective I've been granted by virtue of being a Canamerican abroad has made me acutely aware of one thing: we're making a mockery of freedom in America. I think we're in the process of taking the most important human right — the highest moral good — and turning it into a meaningless platitude, a mere unit of propaganda.

Freedom in America has become inextricably linked with an unrelenting desire to consume — and leave the rest. Freedom is now synonymous with low taxes. Take the libertarian party for example: noble goals, respectable earnestness and a healthy spoonful of intellectual dishonesty. They claim that all our problems will be solved by a more negligible presence of government. In fairness, this dishonesty is probably not a product of conscious design on the part of modern party members, but is rather that of a few generations of Cold War and communist witch-hunts.

America has good reason to fear communism in its Marxist-Leninist forms. But Marx and Engels had some really profound and important insights about capitalism — insights we seem to have forgotten. Namely that, unfettered, capitalism looks something like England and Ireland at the beginning of the industrial revolution (I don't even care to describe these conditions, because Engels wrote a book about them, and they're horrible). And while the complete absorption of a nation's means of production by a totalitarian government is admittedly inane, the realization that the free

market isn't a divine organism was a damn good one. Under pure capitalism, workers are treated like commodities and are compensated accordingly. I call that exploitation, but I suppose freedom works too.

Socialism is merely the recognition that the working class of a capitalist society is under-compensated for the work it does. Socialism is the realization that the prosperity of a nation is owed not just to its "job-creators," but also to every member of its economic structure — top to bottom. Hence, the progressive tax system. More importantly, it is about freedom — and I mean real freedom. Freedom is the ability to define yourself. A free country would be one in which people have the opportunity to educate themselves and to live in moderate comfort as long as they try to contribute to society. But instead, many Americans reject the basic idea of national welfare; they'd prefer to live in a country where if you don't rise, you drown. Today, 40 percent of Americans combined have less money than six members of the Walton family. Today, if people take advantage of government programs, the intuition is to eliminate government rather than to develop more efficient programs. We've forgotten why we developed welfare in the first place: up until the Cold War, we recognized that it was the cornerstone of free society.

So what should the Libertarian party be concerned with? Yes, less military interventionism. Yes, the legalization of drugs. Yes, the removal of legislation that allows the President to arrest US citizens without trial. But fewer taxes? The reason we pay taxes is to improve our society.

But the profound distinction between our socialism (and don't kid yourself, America is a socialist country), and the Soviet Union's, is that we have a representative government. Ideally, we choose where our tax money goes. So then, again, what should the Libertarian party (and indeed every party) be most concerned with? Keeping America democratic. And today, that means getting rid of super-PACs. In fact, it means the elimination of private campaign funding. It means no gerrymandering, and it means operating an accountable government free of corruption and free of legislation written to satisfy grumbling lobbyists and corporate interests. If America is to embody the freedom it professes so fervently, the political debate should not be about wealthy people keeping their cash, it should be about reinstating a democracy that allocates said cash effectively.

FROM THE GALWAY GREEN

Mohan Fitzgerald '14
is from Toronto, Canada

A deeper look at divestment

A recent op-ed ("Divestment creates positive, social change") argued that divestment is a valuable tool in the fight against global warming. While I wholeheartedly share in the author's concern about climate change, I am not convinced that Middlebury College's divestment from fossil fuel companies would constitute a step towards realizing this goal.

READER OP-ED

Max Kagan '14
is from Freeport, Maine.

Divesting from a publicly traded company will not lower the company's share price. Simple economic models tell us that if a stock is sold in sufficient volume to lower its price, non-ideologically motivated buyers will simply take advantage of the lowered price to buy stock until its price returns to the equilibrium point. While the pro-divestment op-ed noted this, the author suggested that if enough investors take action, the financial stability of the company could be jeopardized. Yet this misses the point entirely: it does not matter how many would-be divestors decide to sell — as long as there are non-ideological buyers somewhere, divestment will not impact the company's valuation.

Far more importantly, the op-ed also fails to note the crucial fact that most of the oil industry is not controlled by publicly traded companies. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, national oil companies — not publicly traded international oil companies — control the majority of current production (55 percent as of 2010) and the vast majority of oil reserves (85 percent). Even ExxonMobil, the largest publicly traded oil company, accounts for only three percent of world petroleum production. Divestment would not have an economic effect on private or state-owned oil companies. Furthermore, because those companies are accountable to governments and not to shareholders,

they are also far less likely to care about the moral or symbolic message that divestment could generate.

Even the much-lauded case of divestment from apartheid-era South Africa was not the unmitigated success that activists would have us believe. A London Business School paper titled "The Effect of Socially Activist Investment Policies on the Financial Markets: Evidence from the South African Boycott" found that divestment efforts had "little discernable effect" on either the financial valuation of corporations invested in South Africa or on South African financial markets themselves.

Perhaps one could argue that these criticisms of divestment are misguided, and that divestment is not merely an economic tool, but a social and a moral one. Even if this were the case, we owe it to ourselves to consider not only the benefits of divestment, but also the potential costs. Another study, "The Stock Market Impact of Social Pressure: The South African Divestment Case," found that there was a negative impact on companies that divested: "Stock prices of firms announcing plans to stay in South Africa fared better relative to stock prices of firms announcing plans to leave [emphasis added]." Could divestment have a similarly negative financial impact on Middlebury?

Campus activists do not seem to consider this important point. In their rush to condemn oil companies, many activists do not appear to grasp the fact that their proposed divestment will have costs as well as benefits. While activist groups have done a remarkable job raising awareness, they have yet to publicly present a plan for how divestment could actually be implemented. Many crucial questions re-

main unanswered, and indeed, unasked. What are the potential costs of divestment? Who should bear these costs? How much are we willing to sacrifice? What do we want the purpose of our endowment to be? And above all else: is divestment the best way to accomplish our goals?

The best way to fight climate change is not through disruptive agitprop. The small number of students who reject community discussion and mutual respect in favor of radical direct action — who I recognize do not represent the entire divestment movement — should recognize that they are merely alienating potential supporters and weakening the claims of the divestment movement as a whole.

Dissimulation and disruption can only lead to distrust and polarization. Middlebury is better than that. The path to 350 parts per million runs not through the narrow halls of Old Chapel or the crowded seats of Dana Auditorium, but through the classrooms and laboratories of Bicentennial Hall.

So let's use our skills as Middlebury students not merely to criticize the way things currently are, but to envision a better way forward. Rather than name-calling, protests and accusations, let's see a concrete model of how the endowment should be managed. With this in mind, here's an open call to the Socially Responsible Investment Club, Divest for Our Future, the so-called Dalai Lama Welcoming Committee and all students, faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and members of the Middlebury community who are concerned about the future of our endowment: let's see a cost-benefit analysis of divestment by the end of this academic year.

"In their rush to condemn oil companies, many activists do not appear to grasp the fact that their proposed divestment will have costs as well as benefits."

An encounter with the civilian army of the 21st century

I left the U.S. this Thanksgiving break. France granted me access into their country sans glitch. I glided through their customs saying my *bonjours*, *mercis* and *je suis américaines* in all the right places, and so what if they lost my suitcase.

Fast forward through some crepe consumption, *oui-oui*-ing and the Mona Lisa and I'm at the Philadelphia airport, which I've now decided to be the worst airport in the world, but maybe it's just the most American airport in the world.

I entered the battlefield of customs. It turns out my passport was mistakenly reported stolen, a mistake I could understand because it was actually my passport card that I had reported missing this past summer after a particularly frivolous and forgetful day at a music festival. The fat jarhead man at the secondary inspection desk wouldn't hear any of this. His blue latex-gloved hands told me when I could approach his desk, when I had to sit down and that my passport now belonged to them. Jarhead-glovehands then shooed me out of his office and I was off to security, armed with nothing but a photocopied version of my allegedly stolen passport to prove my U.S. citizenship.

Once I got to the front of the initial security check line I had to explain the whole ordeal to some more jarheaded personnel who then redirected me to another guy, this one with slightly more hair and a mustache. In addition to having more hair than his coworkers, he also seemed to have more understanding that his job did not entitle him to a power trip big enough to compensate for an entire childhood of being bullied. But then he winked and told me he had to put his "number" on my boarding pass before I could proceed. I was thankful for the hairy misogynist because he let me skate by, but what if I had stolen

my passport? Did I really just sail through the globe's prickliest security check with a photocopy of a stolen passport because I was an innocent-looking girl? Maybe some feminist wore off on me in France, but for a second I wished I had actually stolen my passport and he would be the guy face-palming himself when U.S. Airways flight #755 to Burlington kamikazed into Lake Champlain because some French terrorist under the name of Meredith White hijacked the plane.

I stood behind my American kinsman sporting their recent tropical vacation-wear with funky corn-rows and their loose parenting style with their kid pawing around on the floor. If I squinted my eyes a little and looked at those shiny arches of the security check that loomed ahead, it was like being at the foot of the 21st century's Statue of Liberty. Welcome to America, the TSA gates say. The airport personnel serve as our modern day militia. They constitute our seemingly bygone civilian army, combatting 8.5 oz. tubes of toothpaste and pennies left in pockets. How did we become the police capital of the world? With a masterpiece of a constitution and a Statue of Liberty, it seems to be the inevitable fate of our ambitious young nation who bit off more than it could chew. Now we have to overcompensate. It's the same story as the small kid who was bullied in middle school and then grows up to be a big bad airport security official who confiscates passports. Our security reveals our insecurity.

READER OP-ED

Meredith White '15
is from San Francisco,
Calif.

"I was thankful for the hairy misogynist because he let me skate by, but what if I had stolen my passport? Did I really just sail through the globe's prickliest security check with a photocopy of a stolen passport because I was an innocent looking girl?"

"Such a long long time to be gone and a short time to be there"

This past week we kicked off the holiday season with Thanksgiving, which despite its most questionable history, has always been for me less about its origins and more an excuse to bring the family together to eat, drink and be merry.

SETTING ANTS ON FIRE

Michelle Smoler '13
is the managing editor
from Westport, Conn.

The holiday season itself, unfortunately, can be a divisive topic. The abundance of lights, songs, food and family is mired in questions and concerns. To what extent are holidays exclusively religious? Are gifts about giving or obligation? Is it cynicism or reality to view the whole shebang as a capitalist explosion intended to manipulate the masses into mass-consumption? Or should our celebrations be undertaken with a full heart and genuine feeling? If we're open to it — is love really all around us? I choose to subscribe to this latter interpretation. I think there is something truly nice about having a time of year dedicated to showing affection for loved ones in an atmosphere of warmth, music and cheer. Thanksgiving in particular has always been for me a time to appreciate family, away from the hubbub of the following weeks.

Family, however, is a fluid concept. While I am fortunate enough that my family is able and willing to come together to eat, eat, eat and argue over who takes longer to play in Scrabble, this is not necessarily the case for everyone. Some families are separated either physically or emotionally. And if relation is just a technicality, an accident of fate, and we do not necessarily share genes in common with the people we love and with whom we celebrate, then it might be necessary to reevaluate the definition of family.

Despite my joy at being reunited with my blood-relatives over break, I couldn't help feeling a weight of sadness at being separated from my Middlebury family. While my friends here have only recently entered my life, for the high density of time spent in their company, I might have known them forever. We dine, party, work, fall apart, build ourselves back up — in short, discover who we are — together, and provide each other with support from the beginning onward.

The semester has flown by and before we know it the spring will be upon — and then behind — us. As a senior, I am not only impressed by the gravity of the future that awaits me, but also at the thought of what I might be losing. Moving forward is essential. I will not be leaving my Middlebury family behind as they too will be flung into the world alongside me, but to what corner of what continent time will only tell. I fear, and I'm sure others share in this fear, that the end of my college career will see the permanent end of my college family.

It would be easy to say this fear is misplaced. That if I care for my friends as much as I say that I will find a way to keep in touch, that we are coming of age in a time where maintaining contact across oceans is at its most convenient, so there should be no problem in preserving these important self-defining relationships.

But there is something to be said for proximity. While our college friendships are more largely defined by common interests, intellectual affinity and personality type — different from childhood friendships, which seemed to come about incidentally and most of which have fizzled out with time — it occurred to me the other day that my entire college experience was shaped by my first-year dorm placement. Although we are members of a relatively small community I am constantly surprised as to how many students, even in my graduating class, with whom I have never seen, met or spoken to. It's all about location. And as we dive in to our futures, that in length and breadth will dwarf these four short years, I find it naive to think that maintaining our college relationships will be simple.

Perhaps the college family, like the best kind of memory, will always persevere as it has taken part in defining our lives. But through time it may grow weaker and be revisited less often. Only time will tell and truthfully, dwelling on the unfortunate potential dissolution of great friendships is not constructive. I've probably gone too far into realities that need not be confronted at this time. So instead, in the spirit of the holidays, let this, my final column of the semester, not be a downer but a necessary reminder to step away from our finals-week cramming sessions and put aside the end-of-semester angst to enjoy each other. Our time together is limited, so why not let the love flow?

THE FIVE-FINGERED VIRTUES OF MINIMALISM

I made the switch to Vibram FiveFingers and minimalist running footwear after pulling a hamstring last spring, and since making the change, I've had the longest stretch of injury-free running I've ever had. It was a relatively mild hamstring pull — something not terribly uncommon in runners — but still kept me off the pole vault runway for nearly two months. The worst part about the whole fiasco, aside from not being able to jump, was that no one was really able to tell me what caused it. After looking for ways to make my life of running and jumping somewhat more healthy, I eventually found myself thinking that maybe less really could be more.

What I found was that running injuries may not be an inherent risk associated with the activity, and may be more directly caused by the way we run. Research from Harvard's Skeletal Biology Lab has supported the growing concern that modern running shoes, with thick cushioning and motion control technologies that allow us to run with a heel strike, have caused us to stray away from the way our bodies have evolved to run — on the middle or ball of the foot. Their findings illustrate that the legs are subjected to impact forces of up to three times the weight of the body upon heel strike, the same forces that commonly give rise to shin splints and stress fractures. Running with a forefoot strike, as is often used while running barefoot, results in experienced impact forces seven times less intense than what the legs are subjected to while heel striking because it utilizes the body's natural shock-absorption systems of the foot arches and lower legs. Looking to Kenyan distance runners as exemplary, the Harvard researchers concluded that we don't need a lot of shoe to stay healthy runners; that excess of shoe underneath us may be the cause of the problems.

The take-away here shouldn't really be running-related (important note: it took me almost four months to transition to a barefoot running style; muscles and tendons need LOTS of time to adjust for the change). If anything, the study should prompt a reevaluation of how much we think we need. For the past 30 years, running companies have been telling us that we need more shoe, but the Harvard Lab's research points to the contrary. In precisely the same way, the consumer culture we

know and love maintains with an almost religious fervor that we never really have enough. There's always another reason to go out and buy — and retailers would like to have us believe that the best means of maximizing utility is to work long hours to more stuff and support the economy, because that seventh storage unit sure won't fill itself. But is more really better?

Elizabeth Dunn and Michael Norton, of the University of British Columbia and Harvard Business School, respectively, say no. Their research done on the intersection on wealth and happiness shows that greater material consumption seldom leads to increases in happiness. Researchers at Princeton have found that up until about \$75,000, the average mood reported by American households did increase as income went up, but no trends were found beyond that point. Dunn and Norton also point out that research has shown that people in other countries all over the world gain greater satisfaction spending money on others than they do spending on themselves.

Rethinking how much we need to be happy could have serious implications on not just consumption, but the health of our communities and strength of our interpersonal bonds. If we're less concerned with what extra we need to have, then we can expend more energy on what others need. If we use less energy personally, then what we have will go that much further before we hit some kind of crisis. The capacity to use more in no way predicates a necessity to use more. Nature has always managed to find its way getting along without excess.

In the aftermath of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, The Sunday that Missed Out on the Naming Love and Cyber Monday, take a moment to ponder at what point it became acceptable to waste hours of our lives waiting in line to spend our livelihoods on things that probably won't make us any better off. More often than not, less will probably feel better — I was convinced the first time I felt trail and Earth between my toes and underneath my soles.

GREEN PIECE

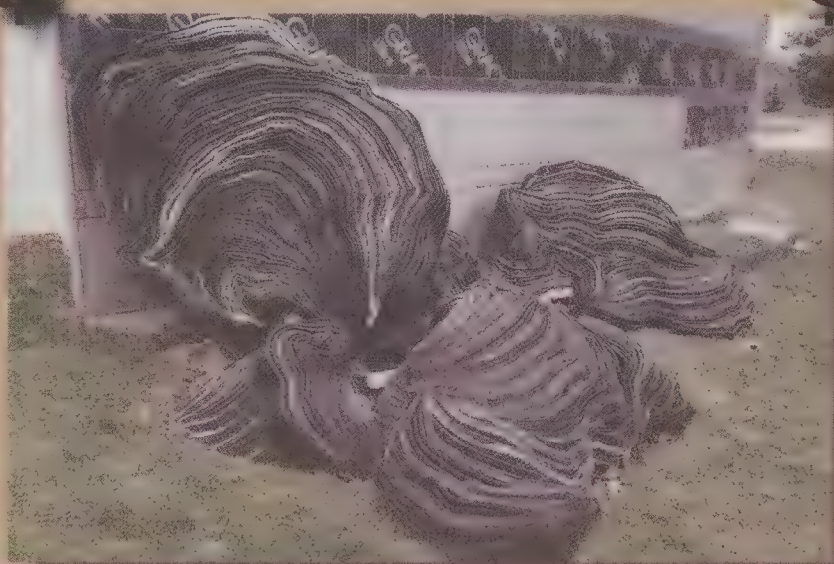
Julian Macrone '14 is
from Clifton, N.J.

HAVE AN OPINION? WEIGH IN TODAY

VOICE YOUR OPINION @ MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM
OR SEND AN OP-ED OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO
CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU



Solid State Change



Perhaps one of the more obscure pieces of public art at Middlebury, "Solid State Change" by Deborah Fisher, arrived on campus in 2007. The piece is unique in form and serves as a source of conversation for anyone passing by. While it appears to some observers as melted tires leaning against the wall of Hillcrest, there is more than meets the eye. Solid State Change is representative of the metamorphic bedrock beneath Middlebury, which goes hand in hand with the interdisciplinary nature of Hillcrest; a building that houses the environmental studies department. Middlebury was the first college in the United States to offer this major encompassing geology, geography, economics, political science, biology, chemistry, physics, religion and philosophy. "[The sculpture] didn't initially strike me as art, but now that I look closer I do understand how it represents the topography of Vermont," said Colin McIntyre '15.

The Frisbee Dog



Resting, or rather jumping, in front of Munroe, "The Frisbee Dog" is a piece that features prominently on the College's main quad. Created by Patrick Villiers Farrow, and arriving on campus in 1989, the piece is derived from a story of five Middlebury alumni, who claim to have been the first ever to throw and catch a discarded pie tin while changing a flat tire in 1939. Throwing a frisbee became a frequent activity behind McCullough after that, and thus came the inspiration. "I love passing by that piece, it's great," said Michaela Colbert '12.5.

ART ON C

Written by Jiayi Zhu and Gabriella Gutman Design

In the fall of 1994, Middlebury's President Emeritus John McCardell Jr. and the College's Board of Trustees instituted the "One Percent for Art" policy. This policy sets aside one percent of the cost of any capital project — including the construction of new buildings and the renovation of existing campus infrastructure — that exceeds \$1 million in cost. These funds are used for the purchase, installation and maintenance of works of art publicly displayed on campus.

Familiar works of arts including "Frisbee Dog" in front of Voter Hall, "Smog" in front of McCardell Bicentennial Hall, and "Solid State Change" next to the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest were all purchased using funds set aside as a result of this policy. The policy's aims include developing and completing the identity of the institution as well as enhancing the aesthetic and educational mission of the public arts on campus.

The One Percent funds are managed by the Committee on Art in Public Places (CAPP). The committee is comprised of faculty members, students, administrators and trustees of the College.

The CAPP is responsible for both evaluating and approving gifts of art that are intended for public display at the college, as well as purchasing new works art. In all instances, a majority vote of CAPP members is required for any work to be accepted as a gift or purchased using One Percent funds.

Since the economic downturn, the College administration has suspended the One Percent for Art policy. Currently, the maintenance of public art pieces already on campus is still supported by the One Percent funds. No new purchases, however, have been made in the past three years.

Richard Saunders, director of the Museum of Art, serves as chair of CAPP. He said that as College finances improve, he hopes the One Percent suspension will soon be overturned.

"Even though the One Percent purchase policy is presently suspended, we do hope that this prohibition on purchases will be rescinded soon. But I do not know when this might happen," Saunders said.

"I believe the [One Percent for Art Policy] is one of the best initiatives the administration has ever put in place," said Audrey Tolbert '13, one of the student representatives serving on the CAPP. "Even under the current suspension of these funds for the purchase of new works, the policy still forces us to take into consideration the visual environment we are curating on our campus."

"So Inclined," a public sculpture constructed by Patrick

L'Art d'Ecrire (The Art of Writing)

For most, "L'Art d'Ecrire" is a focal point upon entering the double doors of the Davis Family Library. The piece was crafted by Matt Mullican and installed in 2005. Through using only primary colors juxtaposed with black, Mullican's works create a visual language within an imaginary world. For this piece specifically, the artist chose to use yellow because it was the medium that would best transmit the wide array of images he chose to portray in the grids. The images include the alphabets of myriad languages, charts of the heavenly bodies and some references to the College itself.

CAMPUS

Design by Olivia Allen and Marea Hatheway

Dougherty in 2007, was removed last year. The nine towering interconnected cones made of red maple saplings and grey dogwood branches sat at the entrance to the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts. So Inclined was conceived as a temporary installation, and was intended to be removed once the structure became unstable.

The discussion regarding whether the CAPP's mandate to maintain campus art includes ensuring the presence of temporary art has been raised in recent CAPP meetings, following the removal of So Inclined.

If the replacement of now-removed temporary art counts as maintenance, then the CAPP might consider acquiring other temporary art to replace So Inclined regardless of the suspension of the One Percent policy, according to Saunders.

"Since art in public places is a part of the identity of the institution, they should represent different programs of the college," said Pieter Broucke, professor of the history of art and architecture. "It will be nice if we have more arts that are internationally focused."

Broucke mentioned that he incorporates a walking tour of campus art in public places for teaching purposes in some of his classes. "These are fabulous pieces that we can learn a lot from," he said.

Eliza Garrison, professor of the history of art and architecture, said that while most students are aware of some of the art on campus, some pieces are more prominent than others.

"For example, 'Smog' near Bi Hall is probably being seen a lot by the science students, while the Joseph Beuys' '7,000 Oaks' right next to the [Axinn Center at Starr Library] isn't even really easy to see," Garrison said.

Due to the freezing of One Percent funds, studio art major Dylan Redford '14 is looking for an alternative way to promote public arts on campus.

"The public art on campus is stuck in this stagnant state where students don't recognize Middlebury's public art as meaningful or intentional," said Redford, who is also a member of the CAPP. "Most of us have learned to just ignore these public works. I would like to start placing more temporary public art around campus that changes year after year, which would force students to recognize the works and be asked to evaluate its placement and meaning on campus." Redford said he thinks the administration will reverse the suspension once the student body shows enough interest in public art.

LOVE



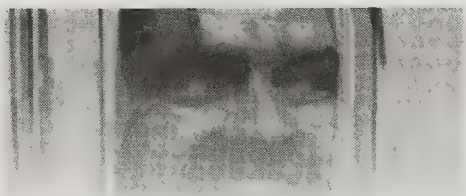
Nestled behind the CFA, LOVE, standing six feet tall and six feet wide draws a lot of attention as its primary colors, red and blue, contrast the natural colors that come with the ever changing seasons of Vermont in a beautiful way. Created by Robert Indiana in 1973, and donated to the college in 2000, the bold design has appeared not only in the form of a sculpture but as a greeting card, jewelry design and a US postage stamp. "I like seeing such a famous, recognizable piece of art on campus," said Gina Puchinelli '15. LOVE has evolved into an ageless icon eliciting a series of different emotions from different viewers.

7000 Eichen (7000 oaks)



Often overlooked while pacing quickly to and from class is the "7000 Eichen" (7000 oaks) sculpture by Joseph Beuys that was placed between Starr Hall and Axinn Starr library in 1998. The work of Beuys consistently contrasted the young tree with the inanimate stone illustrating how organisms exist in a permanent state of flux. His belief was that art not only has an aesthetic function, but that it also serves as a form of social studies. Specifically within the context of our campus, the tree and the basalt, viewers of the piece become connected with viewers of the same piece around the world, creating a large community. "Most people have a hard time understanding this piece, its significance and how well-known Beuys himself is, but it's amazing that the College has it," said Adrian Kerester '15.





ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

BY JOSH KRUSKAL

I've reached that point in the year when I reflexively refer to my dorm room as "home." It still feels strange to say, but over Thanksgiving break I realized that I missed Middlebury in a way that can only be described as homesickness.

This insight made me feel guilty, as if I was somehow betraying my relationship with my childhood home. I know this isn't the case in reality, but I still feel odd whenever I use "home" to talk about here.

Then again, I spend more time here than there. Now, "there" is a place I see during holidays and vacations. It's a place where I don't have very much to do when I visit. I can see old high school friends, at least the ones I've stayed in touch with, but conversations inevitably circle back to high school. There's almost no new material to talk about.

"There" is a place filled with an abundance of old memories, but with little opportunity to form new ones. It's kind of sad, but it's a part of growing up.

For me, it's as if time stopped back home the moment I left to come to college. My hometown stopped seeming like the real world once I came to school, and now it's frozen that way.

On the other hand, time here moves very quickly. There's always so much — usually too much — happening, and once it's over and you've moved on to the next thing you have to do, you think back and wonder where all that time went.

This sort of flies in the face of special relativity. The faster something moves, the slower that time is meant to pass for it. Instead, life here would seem to defy the laws of physics. Things here are very fast indeed and time doesn't seem to be slowing down at all.

We exist here at Middlebury within some form of temporal anomaly.

Weekdays seems to drag on and on, until the the week ends and you realize how fast it's all gone by. Then, the weekend seems to end sooner than it began.

There's kind of a reverse Doppler effect going on as well — as we move forward in our little local bubble of space-time, things seems wide open before us (perhaps not during finals week, though; good luck to all of you). When we look back we're amazed by how much we've already done. Think of how fast this semester has flown by.

Maybe "home" has more to do with quantum mechanics than with physics on a macro scale. Maybe "home" only functions so long as we're there to observe it.

If we could somehow isolate "home," placing it in an allegorical box, wherein we could not observe it, would it continue to be "home," or would it change into some unobservable non-home state? Could it be both "home" and "not-home" simultaneously?

If we approach this paradox from the angle of deterministic causality, could we really assume that our *being* home makes home "home?" In other words, is "home" really where the heart is? Or, can we claim the inverse, saying that home is "home" irrespective of the observer, and by incredible coincidence we happen to be present at the singular four-dimensional coordinate in all of space-time which happens to display "home"-like properties?

I'll mull over these questions during winter break, and get back to you with my findings.

Good luck with finals, and may the force be with you! (Fun fact: my hometown is called Newton.)

MiddCore expands to summer program

By Anna Chamby

This fall, the College announced the launch of MiddCORE Immersion, a new summer leadership and innovation program to be based at Sierra Nevada College (SNC). MiddCORE Immersion, which will closely resemble the College's existing winter term MiddCORE course and curriculum, will run its inaugural month-long session from June 17 to July 12 of summer 2013.

MiddCORE, which first started as an intensive winter term class five years ago, aims to build leadership, communication and entrepreneurial skills and insights to create opportunities and expand networks for its students.

MiddCORE is part of the Project on Creativity and Innovation in the Liberal Arts (PCI) at the College, which seeks to develop productive environments on campus in which students can exercise creativity, innovation and risk-taking. Over the past five years, PCI has grown significantly in its number of programs, and the scaling up of MiddCORE to include a summer program is the most recent development in a growing portfolio of PCI initiatives.

Under Jessica Holmes, the current MiddCORE director and associate professor of economics, the MiddCORE program has expanded over the past year to include a paid summer academic internship at the College, a semester-long workshop series on campus, and an additional winter term course at the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

In summer 2013, MiddCORE Immersion will run its inaugural four-week program at Sierra Nevada College, located near Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nevada. The course, which will cost \$9,500 per student, is open to current students and recent graduates of any college or university, with an enrollment limit of 60. According to Holmes, applications will be reviewed by members of the MiddCORE staff, and applicants will be assessed based on indicated creativity, drive and ingenuity that is demonstrated through recommendation letters, written responses to "rather unconventional essay questions" that ac-

parent that we had a unique niche and an enviable program."

Sierra Nevada College was identified by MiddCORE's CFO Patrick Norton as an ideal establishment for the summer program, and was selected because of its small size, picturesque setting and its west coast location, which allows for a new network of possible mentors who would perhaps be unable to travel to Vermont for the winter term course.

In its mission to cultivate future leaders and innovators, MiddCORE relies heavily on its mentors — a group of carefully chosen individuals that includes CEOs, entrepreneurs, business owners, artists, actors, political leaders and doctors — who have a proven record of accomplishment in their fields and are willing to help students develop strengths in leadership and innovation.

"I would love to see more faculty and staff get involved in MiddCORE," Holmes wrote. "The only prerequisite is a strong willingness to engage with students and an appreciation for the importance of developing strengths in leadership and innovation."

The decision to expand the MiddCORE program and make it available to non-Middlebury students was made without consulting most members of the faculty. The Faculty Council, which includes the Educational Affairs Committee that oversees the general direction of the college curriculum, did not play a role in the creation of the new summer immersion course, and its members were purportedly unaware of the launch until the College's press release.

"Speaking personally ... I see the merit in making the theory-praxis connection systematically," Sujata Moorti, secretary of the Faculty Council and professor of women's and gender studies, said of the program. "However, as Middlebury sets up credit-granting programs, we as a community need to discuss what this means for our understanding of a liberal arts education."

The decision to create a summer MiddCORE program stemmed from the recognition that the time-intensive nature of the College's winter term

course may have prevented some students from taking the class. Also, aside from attracting additional students from the College, the CORE team hopes that the summer program will draw a diverse group of highly motivated students from around the world.

Ernie Parizeau, a six-year winter

term MiddCORE mentor, former venture capitalist and current Babson professor who will be one of the Immersion mentors this summer, sees benefits to students in the expansion of the program.

"Expanding the program to Sierra Nevada College on Lake Tahoe seems like a great opportunity to me," wrote Parizeau in an email. "It is close to west coast mentors in Silicon Valley, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Mentors from the west coast could open doors for students interested in careers in fields with significant west coast presence like technology or entertainment. Further, opening the program to students outside Middlebury offers a great opportunity for cross-fertilization and networking."

Emma Kitchen '14, a winter term 2012 MiddCORE student agreed that inviting non-Middlebury participants to apply to MiddCORE Immersion will bring benefits to the program. Kitchen also founded Concussions Speak, a website for athletes to share their concussion stories to raise awareness about athletic injuries, after first pitching the idea to her MiddCORE peers.

"I think [the new program] will be a great way for MiddCORE to attract more students that want to make use of their summer ... [and] a great way for the students to utilize a whole new set of awesome resources out on the west coast," wrote in an email. "Taking MiddCORE was the best decision I've made at Middlebury."

Holmes and the CORE team have discussed several possibilities for further future expansion, but also acknowledge the rapidity of recent developments and the program's current limits.

"We have [had] tremendous growth for 2012," wrote Holmes. "That said, with additional donor funding, I can imagine expanding the MiddCOREplus internship program to more students and multiple cities, but the real constraint there is funding."

While the program has some competition in the Dartmouth Business Bridge Program at Tuck and the BASE program at Berkeley College, MiddCORE Immersion seeks to fill an untapped niche in the market for college-level summer programs.

MiddCORE is different in several ways [from its competitors]," said Parizeau. "It makes great use of experienced mentors from businesses, nonprofits, government and various other non-academic institutions. It focuses the learning on highly immersive, experiential exercises that drive learning by doing."

MiddCORE Immersion at SNC is accepting applications for its 2013 course through a rolling admissions process. For more information about MiddCORE and its programs, visit <http://middcore.middlebury.edu>.

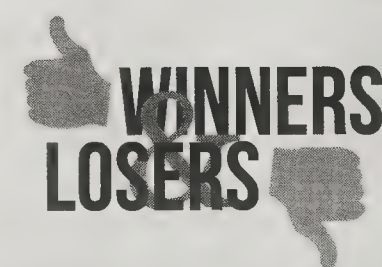


COURTESY OF MIDDCORE

The MiddCORE Immersion program is located near scenic Lake Tahoe.

company the application and students' transcripts.

"The stars were aligned to consider a [MiddCORE] expansion," wrote Holmes in an email. "First, after fielding calls from several other institutions interested in establishing a MiddCORE program on their campus, it quickly became ap-



THANKSGIVING

Great food followed by shopping riots — what's not to love?

REGISTRATION

Alarm set. Laptop charged. The 7 a.m. struggle begins.

WINTER BREAK

We can't wait, though we must say the home stretch has never felt longer.

FINALS WEEK

Time to get that participation grade up!

SNOW

Middlebury and cupcakes: both better with frosting.

SNOW

Now is the winter of our discontent — get insulated.

Film prompts discussion of Arab-Jew identity

By Stephanie Roush

On Monday Nov. 26, at 4:30 p.m. over 25 students, faculty and Middlebury residents gathered to watch the 2002 documentary *Forget Baghdad* a film directed and written by Samir.

"I'm glad so many people are here," said Danny Loehr '13.

"I came because I've studied Arabic and I went to a few synagogues in Tunisia this summer and I was interested in Arab Jews and migration," explained Loehr.

The screening was put on by the Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE). Following the film, Arabic Professor Ahmad Almallah led a discussion about the film's implications in the context of current conflict in the Middle East.

"This is such an important time for us to open a discussion on Israel and Palestine," said Almallah.

"The movie helps us consider the complexity of Israeli society and its effect on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank," added Almallah.

The film chronicles the history of Mizrahi Jews — Jews of Iraqi descent — who were encouraged to immigrate to Israel after it gained statehood in 1948. The film focuses on four older men, friends of the filmmaker's father, who immigrated to Israel from Iraq in the 1950s. The documentary explores the discrimination that Israel's Arabic population has been subjected to over the last 60 years.

In the film, the four characters discuss how when they arrived in Israel many of the passengers were sprayed with DDT, an action meant to rid them of any chemicals or diseases they might have brought with them.

"It was as if we had arrived with microbes," said Michael Sami, who is now a famous author in Israel.

When the Iraqis arrived in Israel the country was so strained by the massive influx of immigrants that there was no work, especially for Mizrahi Jews who were thought to be less intelligent than the Ashkenazi Jews from Europe.

"They thought we were primitive, in need of teaching," said Sami in the film.

Ella Habiba Shohat, New York Univer-

sity professor of cultural studies, the daughter of two Iraqi Jews who now resides in New York City but grew up in Israel, is featured prominently throughout the film.

Shohat's book *Israeli Cinema: East/West and the Politics of Representation* (1989) drew a lot of political attention in Israel.

"Cinema has a very important role in the way we imagine certain groups of people," she said in the film. She points to examples like Disney's *Aladdin* (1992) and *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* (1944) as movies in which the Arab world is represented from a biased Western point of view.

"You have to deny a part of your identity in the public because it's the identity of the enemy," said Shohat, referring to her feeling that she had to hide her Arabic identity growing up in Israel. She discusses in the film that she felt exiled as an Iraqi living in Israel.

"I understand her desire to live a normal life and move out of a hostile situation," said Almallah in response to Shohat's comments in the film. "I've had similar reasons for leaving. I also married a Lebanese and cannot go back. These are situations that force people into exile." He explained that Jews were completely integrated into Iraqi society before moving to Israel. When Mizrahi Jews immigrated to Israel they became more of a minority than they ever were in Iraq.

"The Arab Jews came to the point of hating their identity," said Almallah. His views are supported by Shohat's comments in the film.

"In Israel we're Arabs — we're the wrong identity," said Shohat.

"As a Jew of European origins who is studying Arabic I found this movie very enlightening but also disheartening," said Luke Schanz-Garbassi '15 in response to the many comments about the discrimination of Jews of European descent toward Jews of Arabic descent in modern Israel.

"I learned a lot about stereotypes, a lot of new stereotypes," he added.

While Schanz-Garbassi attended the screening with little prior knowledge of this historical and modern political struggle for Mizrahi Jews, Amitai Ben Abba '15 grew up in Israel and shared a more personal view of

the conflict.

"The image of the Mizrahi Jew is being diminished constantly. Youngsters won't go and integrate with the Ashkenazi Jews," he said.

Although the film paints the picture that Mizrahi Jews make up a substantial part of Israel's population, Ben Abba explains that in reality their population is small enough to not garner any political power.

"Arab Jews are rare to the point that they're not relevant to the political atmosphere," he said.

Almallah reflected that the creation of a Jewish state put pressure on various Jewish minorities to immigrate to Israel despite the discrimination they might face once there.

"Upon the creation of the state of Israel many Arab Jews were put in a very difficult situation. They had Arab identity at the center of their existence," he said.

Loehr presented an alternate perspective. Having spent some time in Tunisia this past summer, he became interested in Tunisian Jews and even had the opportunity to visit some of their synagogues.

"The Tunisian Jews that I spent time with had no desire to go to Israel," he said.

"The creation of a sanctuary for certain people seems to make the life harder for those who don't want to go to that sanctuary."

Almallah recognizes that one of the main problems that Israel faces is that it is a state aligned with the West that is situated in the Middle East.

"Israeli culture was primarily made and designed for Europeans," he said.

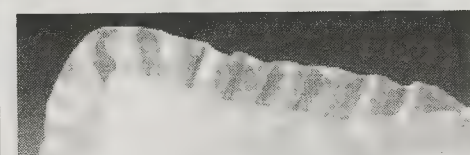
During the discussion after the screening, Amr Thameen '14 asked why there hasn't been an Arab Spring in Israel.

"I feel like in the 21st century it has to be hard for people in that situation to live normally," he said, "why don't people do anything about it?"

Almallah stressed the need to recognize this conflict and to strive for a peaceful solution.

"It is time to start fighting for a different motto and it should be a motto of coexistence," he said.

"We need to revisit the history of two people coexisting with each other."



BEDROOM BRIEFS

BY VIRGINIA JOHNSON

My first kiss almost caused mutual, spontaneous combustion. The pent of desire coursing through my veins bubbled to the surface and I completely lost control. Suddenly, everything was wet and hot and desperate. My desperation occurred due to sexting. My first boyfriend and I narrated our sexual exploration via our flip phones constantly. Long before laying our lips against each other's mouths, we had meticulously discussed our sexual fantasies. I offered him titillating details of my shower activities. He told me what he wanted to do to me after school in the band room. We exchanged innumerable descriptions of our bodies and our desires, building insurmountable tension and feverish need.

I broke up with that boyfriend long ago, but my practice of sexting persists. A victim of multiple long-distance relationships, sometimes using technology to express desire proved necessary. Other times, sending naughty texts and messages was just fun. The forbidden condition of the activity and its quality of instant gratification fuels my fantasies and adds another layer of excitement to my sex life. However, I find the larger movement to which sexting belongs — that of instantaneous communication — worrisome.

Generation Z, often called the Facebook generation, communicates more than any other age group. We text, email, message, call, Snap Chat, BBM, iMessage, FaceTime, IM, Skype. The mediums are endless. Our multilayered, technologically-charged communication extends into our sex lives. Even when I'm living in the same building as my significant other, I text him three or four times a day, not to mention email, Facebook and phone calls. Most of this communication barely moves past content as shallow as "Hey, how are you?" Other texts might get steamy, even though I could just as easily go say the content of my messages and get a physical rather than textual response. Technology proves even more powerful at the beginning of relationships. A thorough Facebook stalk is the first step for any flirtation, even before the relationship matures past Proctor crush status. Next commences the dangerous dance of the textual courtship. The endless exchanges tapped on a keyboard replace first-date conversations. Perhaps once a relationship has progressed into the sexual arena, sexting can launch and titillate both parties while they attempt to do their homework.

Our dependence on technology to communicate our love and lust stems from the fact that virtual communication feels safer than speaking to someone in person. It's easy to type out and send the reasons why you love his body or where you want her lips, or how you want it from behind. Contrastingly, in the bedroom, in the nude, a real person in front of whom you are vulnerable, might judge you. Whether that person is a crush, a new boyfriend, or the love of your life, that vulnerability exists and is terrifying. Snap Chat, sexting, and IM circumvent that vulnerability, providing the illusion of safety behind a screen.

Failing to accept vulnerability in our love and sex lives sacrifices a huge opportunity. Vulnerability is the bread and butter of exploration. Surmounting it generates confidence and creates closeness between two people. Every email with an invitation for dinner this weekend, every Facebook message suggesting a future date, every text asking if I like it dirty avoids vulnerability. These modes of communication substitute virtual communication for genuine communion. Sexting is fun. I'm not going to stop doing it. But I recognize its dearth of power in comparison to real-life, in-person sexual experience. At best, sexting and virtual communication functions as a supplement, at worst, it's a crutch. Avoid the protective screen. Explore your sexuality in the flesh.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

By Leah Sarbib

Course:
Celebrity

Instructor:
Rebecca Tiger,
Assistant Professor
of Sociology and
Anthropology

Other Courses Taught:
Society and the Individual,
Deviance and Social Control,
Sociology of Drugs, Sociology
of Punishment

Department:
Sociology/Anthropology

Credits:
NOR, SOC

Format:
3 hrs. Seminar

Note: Professor Tiger is currently on academic leave. Look for "Celebrity" to be offered again during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Our bi-weekly profile of some of the College's most interesting courses

"Celebrity is more than just fluff," as Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology Rebecca Tiger put it. In fact, Tiger explained, "celebrity is an important identity in contemporary society; not a person or a thing, but a symbolic system we interact around." Her class, aptly titled "Celebrity," explores the definition and influence of celebrity in the U.S.

Students in Tiger's class, which was taught last spring, were tasked with choosing a particular celebrity to follow throughout the term. Jordie Ricigliano '12.5 picked Lana Del Rey; she followed the artist's official Twitter and regularly checked relevant gossip blogs.

"By the end of the semester, I felt oddly close to Lizzy. I even called her by her real name, Elizabeth Grant." Ricigliano confessed, "I found that over the course of the semester, I too was becoming obsessed." Other students followed famous athletes or politicians; one chose a YouTube star.

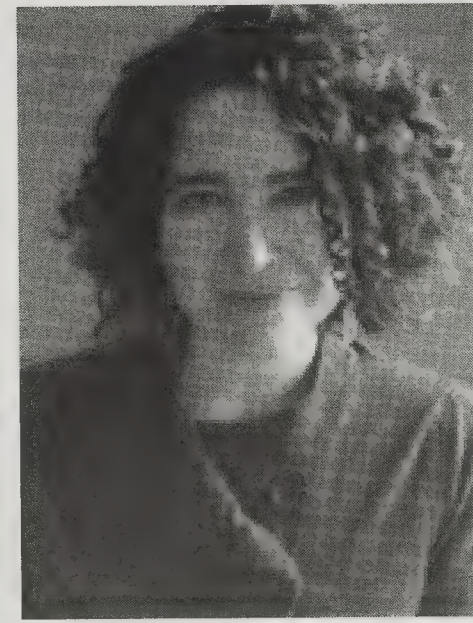
This "celebrity stalking" helped students participate in as well as understand the phenomenon of celebrity surveillance and the importance of celebrity in American society. "All of us are affected by celebrity culture even when we say we don't pay attention to it," said Tiger, "It matters and is worthy of analytical and theoretical scrutiny."

Tiger first discovered the power of celebrity when she studied drug-use in school. Celebrity gossip sites were her diversion. On blogs she visited, Tiger began to notice discussions of drugs and addiction — topics relevant to many young stars like Amy Winehouse and Lindsay Lohan.

"What happens is that [using these sites], people start to construct ideas about drugs and addiction that are different from what scientists give us," explained Tiger, "If you just see celebrity as a matter of pop culture you'll miss a lot of more important social issues."

The class explored topics like the evolution of celebrity, and its debatable transformation into a quasi-religion. It is a common language that builds community. Students brought magazines into class and dissected them, looking for themes. They learned about creation of the "micro-celebrity" and discussed whether YouTube allowed for democratization of celebrity. The class skyped with a writer for *Sports Illustrated* who had covered the Tiger Woods sex scandal.

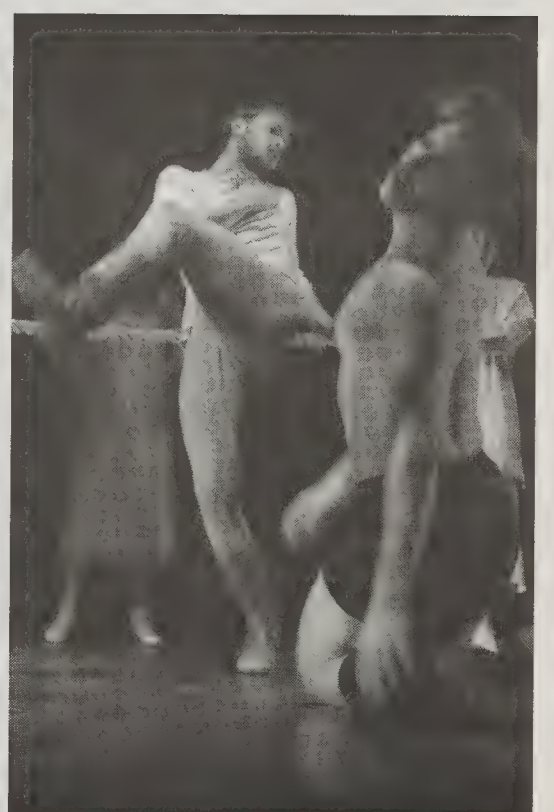
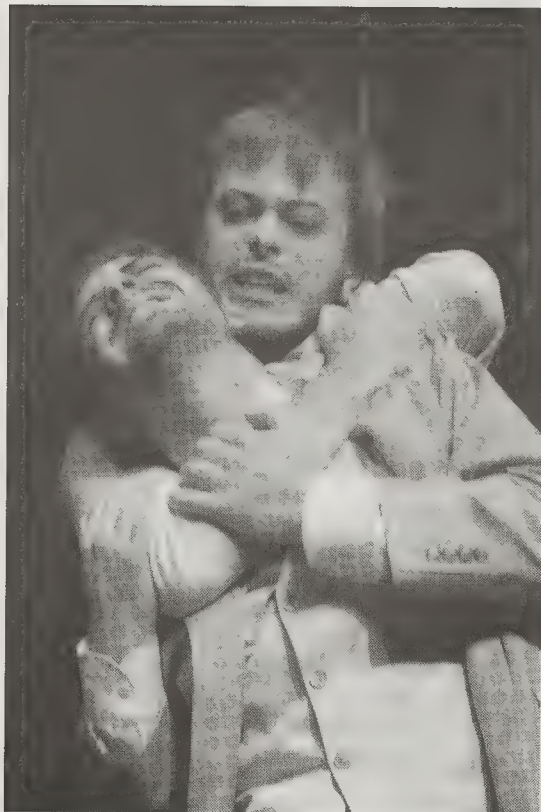
"I can never read *People Magazine* the same way again, nor watch a reality show without thinking, 'am I watching this in order to feel collective effervescence within an alienated capitalistic hegemony?'" Ricigliano said. "It was one of those classes that you find yourself talking about over the dinner table with your friends and on the phone with family — one of those classes you just keep revisiting in other times in your life, probably because it is so relevant to your life."



COURTESY OF REBECCA TIGER
Rebecca Tiger teaches "Celebrity."



All the world's a stage...



LEFT: Orlando (Jake Connolly '13) confronts his older brother, Oliver (Teddy Anderson '13.5). After the scuffle, Orlando is persecuted by Oliver and forced to escape. CENTER: Celia (Sarah Lusche '13) blows bubbles as she relaxes in her court. She and her cousin, Rosalind (Christina Fox '13.5), flee from her father's castle to the forest. RIGHT: Connolly delivers a kick in the tightly-choreographed wrestling scene of *As You Like It*, in which Orlando soundly defeats Charles (Jack Markusen '13.5).

As You Like It

By Michael Gaffney

Two major problems of rhetoric occur when a contemporary director chooses to put on a Shakespeare play. One problem concerns the comedy itself; what an audience found funny 400 years ago may fall flat today. But, surprisingly, this particular issue rarely plagues Professor of Theater and Women's Gender Studies Cheryl Feraone's *As You Like It*. A mix of Ben Orbison's '13 well-timed physical humor as Touchstone and Christina Fox's '13.5 intentionally over-articulated lines as Rosalind served to enliven a cliché comedy.

The second rhetorical problem (and this unfortunately presented greater, though not crippling problems for this performance) concerns the language. No matter how well the actors speak and understand the lines, an unfamiliar audience must pay extraordinary attention in order to understand plot and jokes. Despite these actors' competent locution of Shakespeare's English — Sarah Lusche '13 as Celia performed particularly well in this regard, speaking the lines with both fluency and comprehension — demanding this extra attention for two and a half hours seemed excessive, especially for a generation and audience so accustomed to constant entertainment. Here, I do not condemn difficult and time consuming works of art; rather, I expect a greater reward at the end of such work. And quite frankly, Shakespeare's often-interchangeable comedies do not quite

provide that recompense.

The plot of the comedy involves brotherly conflict, an exiled Duke, a court-and-forest opposition, a woman dressing as a man and a ridiculous amount of marriages. Sound familiar?

The strengths of this solid performance did not lie in plot. Nor did they lie in an artistic unity of set, plot and costumes. The set of this rendition struck me as rather beautiful in its simplicity: an abstract single metal chair that changed, later, to a swing, and scores of white umbrellas floating from the ceiling jellyfish-like, reminiscent of Magritte paintings. But this design unfortunately added nothing to the thematic interpretation and was, at times, dazzling to the point of total distraction from the play.

This went double for the fascinating costumes, co-designed by Artist-In-Residence Jule Emerson and Annie Ulrich '13. The beautiful three-piece suits, vintage dresses and capes all suggested an early 1900s Edwardian silhouette, but, again, this had nothing to do with the plot. They were, however, impressive. All of the costumes adhered strictly to a palette of beige, cream and brown, with dark

green and copper accents, but somehow they seemed elegantly profuse, a kind of bland near-decadence that was unified rather than needlessly restricted by the colors. For such a limited color scheme, the sheer abundance of various outfits was miraculous.

But it is too bad that more was not done to marry the text of a comedy with World War I and Dada costume and set design; post WWI disillusionment cannot and does not speak with what is fundamentally, by definition, a comedy.

*"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women
merely players:
They have their exits and
their entrances;
And one man in his time
plays many parts..."*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
"AS YOU LIKE IT"

play, separate in an almost alien-like manner. Aside from this being highly confusing, I found the singsong pointless, never once working with the notion of revelry which we are supposed to feel in the forest scenes. And how, I ask, can one take singsong seriously in a play anymore? Television has satirized this to a point at which it's impossible to enjoy it smirklessly. This criticism comes despite,

again, formal beauty in the singing, and a stunning orchestration of such a large group of people.

What did hold the play together, though, were some of the smaller details: Oliver de Boys's (Teddy Anderson '13.5) eerily realistic black eye and dirtied suit, the blood on Orlando de Boys's (Jake Connolly '13) arm and the acting itself. Although Fox seemed to struggle in the early scenes to find a way to match her words with her actions, her later scenes, often when paired opposite Connolly, were riveting, funny and tension-filled. Fox had a way of suddenly and dynamically switching from romantic and swooning to formal and reserved that fit her character perfectly. Connolly played his part, reacting to such dynamics, with sincerity and believability to counter her volatility.

That is not to mention Daniel Sauer-milch's '13 sassy, haughty interpretation of Duke Senior, which was unexpected and somehow perfect. Orbison's Touchstone, mentioned surpa, was also unexpected, funny not just in lines but in body humor. Though Touchstone became shrill at times, Orbison's physical humor, particularly mimicking Charles the Wrestler, was masterful.

So despite some odd directorial choices that felt at best arbitrary and at worst deliberately dissonant, *As You Like It* was well set-designed, well-acted, well-costumed, all elements struggling against the blandness that is a Shakespeare comedy.

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Vanek Trilogy

Senior theatre work of Noah Berman '13, Isabel Shill '13 and others. *The Vanek Trilogy* is a series of short plays written by Vaclav Havel. The plays explore the tension created when two similar people find different paths of survival in a harsh environment.

11/29 - 12/1, 8:00 P.M., HEPBURN ZOO

Jupiter String Quartet

Every so often a performance leaves us in awe of its loving sophistication, its attention to the finest details of balance and expression. The same can be said of Jupiter String Quartet's performance. This prize-winning quartet is in high demand around the globe. The program includes a variety of music.

11/30, 8 P.M., 8:00 PM, MAHANEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Fall Dance Concert

This choreo-lab features the works of emerging dance artists at the intermediate and advanced levels, the annual Newcomers' Piece, choreographed by Penny Campbell, and a new work for the Dance Company of Middlebury by Visiting Assistant Professor Catherine Cabeen. Tickets \$12.

11/30 - 12/1 8:00 P.M. MAHANEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: COSTANZA-ROBINSON LAB

By Will Henriques

Environmental chemistry is a broad field that spans the study of chemical processes in the atmosphere, earth, water and biological world. Associate Professor of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Studies Molly Costanza-Robinson has found her niche in contaminant fate and transport.

A contaminant is any sort of chemical substance that is not naturally found in an environment that can cause harm to the organisms living in that environment. DDT, Agent Orange, carbon monoxide and lead are all contaminants, and are harmful once they reach a certain concentration in the environment.

Contaminant fate and transport is the study of how the contaminating substance moves through and interacts with the environment. Costanza-Robinson is primarily interested in organic (hydrogen- and carbon-containing), human-generated contamination in the environment. She studies the fate and transport of contaminants generated by industry, agriculture and transportation.

"Over the course of my career, some of my work has focused on chlorinated solvents," Costanza-Robinson said. "These are solvents that everybody in industry loves. They're huge in the computing industry, because they clean all the oils off of silicon wafers. Dry-cleaners use chlorinated solvents too. But many of them are carcinogenic, and they're so heavily used in industry that they are one of the most ubiquitous groundwater contaminants in the United States. I did a lot of my earlier work in Tucson, Arizona. In South Tucson, where they have the international airport and an airforce, TCE (trichloroethylene) seeps out into municipal water supplies and the contamination level is pretty much 100 percent."

The big picture that Costanza-Robinson

is working toward is to develop a filter that could easily remove such pollutants from a contaminated water supply. She is working with two thesis students, Annie Mejaes '13 and Malcolm Littlefield '13, to characterize a clay that could be used as such a filter.

"[We're] characterizing surfactant-modified clay, which is a material that we would like to use as a filtration medium

through an activated carbon filter which is a more organic phase than the water, so any organic contaminants (like fish pee) will stick to the filter. This would do the same thing, but at much lower cost."

In an aqueous environment, the clay that Costanza-Robinson and her students are using forms layers similar to slices of bread. Normally, the pollutants (think of them as potential sandwich fillings like

To continue with the sandwich analogy, the fillings will not go in between two slices of dry bread on its own. The surface of the bread needs to be altered to make the environment between the slices favorable for fillings.

The clay that the Costanza-Robinson lab uses is a "surfactant-modified clay," which means that the surface in between the clay layers has been modified so it is only partially charged or not charged at all. Surfactant-modified clay is bread that has been buttered between the slices to create a favorable environment that the fillings easily stick to. Costanza-Robinson, Mejaes and Littlefield want to understand under what conditions that use is maximized. They're exploring the question: what amount of butter spread between the slices is conducive to maximizing the amount of filling that can be stuffed inside the sandwich?

"We're not the first to do this," Costanza-Robinson said. "People have been doing this for decades. But we are trying to figure out the mechanism of how different toxic compounds are interacting in that interlayer. My students are studying different surfactants with different alkyl chain lengths and saying: do you need some minimum chain length before things can fit in there? Is there an optimal amount of surfactant that maximizes contaminant absorption? So we are starting with some mechanisms that we understand, that some people have figured out in the literature, and then we're going to play with a few more variables that haven't been considered before."

Costanza-Robinson is excited for this undertaking.

"It's a brand new project. We don't have any data yet. We're exploring. And I think our questions are a little bit broad at this point, but as we learn some of the techniques and sift through the literature, we'll refine our questions."



Associate Professor of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Studies Molly Costanza-Robinson researches contaminants and how to remove them from water.

to remove organic contaminants from aqueous systems," said Littlefield. "By running the contaminated water through this surfactant-modified clay, they should partition from the aqueous phase into this organic phase that is created at the clay surface. 'Like dissolves like' is a common phrase thrown around in chemistry. All absorption filters use the same fundamental mechanism. If you have a fish tank, it simply draws water from the tank, runs it

lettuce, tomato, pickles and ham) can't pass in between these clay layers because the clay has a charged surface, while the pollutants are non-polar, meaning they have no charge.

Ever made a salad dressing and mixed oil and water? The oil won't dissolve in water because it is made up of uncharged molecules while the water is made of charged molecules. The two different types of molecules simply do not interact.

Fall Dance Concert highlights diversity

By Alan Sutton

The Fall Dance Concert, "Mosaics from the Underground," will open tomorrow night in the Seeler Studio Theater. The concert is a promising creation that aims to spark conversations about one of the College's most emphasized values: diversity.

A collaboration involving 10 students and two professors, the concert features nearly 30 student performers and offers a strikingly intimate evening of creative work. The choreographers have created an accessible and relevant experience for audience members by integrating their own interests from across a variety of academic disciplines, including environmental studies and literature.



ALAN KIMARA DICKSON

Jessica Lee '13 will explore the environment and interpersonal relationships in her choreographed "Maps of Home."

This concert is the product of a highly academic process, yet it speaks to everyone. It becomes an emotional experience once the viewer stops trying to read it cognitively. The creators of the show engage in conversation, not necessarily through "talking," but through "showing" their thoughts, experiences, opinions and feelings.

By combining ideas from dance and environmental studies, Jessica Lee '13 created a piece that evokes the excitement of foolish exploration, the difficulties of growing up and the challenges of college life.

"I danced my whole life and home for me became the dance studio and that involved following directions and discipline and following others in high school and doing what you think you have to get to college," Lee said.

Doug LeCours '13, a dance and English double major, turned to literature for inspiration. Citing the style of a favorite Virginia Woolf book, *To the Lighthouse*, his piece reflects a "stream of consciousness" through movement.

"The body moves as a whole, from the center, beginning from one place, and develops from there," said LeCours while demonstrating a simple arm movement. But in this way, by constantly focusing on intentionality, simple gestures such as the movement of an arm can become graceful and powerfully moving.

These two choreographers take purposefully different approaches to beginning their work, yet both methods produce beautifully intimate kinesthetic experiences. Diversity emerges as a motif from the concert not because each piece is the same, or even similar, but because each of the 11 pieces focuses on what individual creators can relate to best — the

self.

"We really thrive on the raw vigorous excitement of spontaneity," explained Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance Catherine Cabeen, who guided the students through her Dance 460 class this semester. She continued to detail the creative process she shared with her students.

"We started by using language to explore individual ideas that the students were very passionate about," she said. "Then we examined how different movement qualities and compositional strategies can embody those ideas. The resulting collection of works is diverse. There are many different movement languages at play... I see dance as a form of public scholarship that aims to inform as many people as possible about ideas that we feel passionate about."

Noting that each choreographer comes from a different training background, Cabeen described how today most dancers must be comfortable using many different styles of dance. This necessity echoes another long standing college tradition — that of teaching and communicating across languages. Students share parts of themselves in their creative work using different movement traditions.

Diversity also emerges when considering the performers' education and artistic backgrounds, as LeCours pointed out.

"I'm working with three people of incredibly different training backgrounds, which is really exciting," he said.

His fellow dancers all have different levels of experience in performance and have trained differently as dancers and artists. In addition, their height difference also makes for some fascinating vi-



ALAN KIMARA DICKSON

Hannah Pierce '13 will perform a piece in "Mosaics from the Underground."

sual humor.

Dance, especially as these students use it, is a communicative language for sharing that which is touching, instinctive and fleeting. As LeCours observed, audience members, performers and even creators engage in the learning experience together.

"Secretly, it's a process for all of us to discover what we're dancing about," he said.

"Mosaics from the Underground" opens Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m., with a second show at the same time Saturday evening.

Upcoming play evokes a life devoid of freedom

By Deirdre Sackett

Beginning today, the evocative *Vanek Trilogy* will run in the Hepburn Zoo Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. The show is the senior thesis production of Noah Berman '13 and Izzy Shill '12.5, who act in the show alongside Adam Milano '15. Paula Bogutyn '13.5 is directing the show for an independent project.

The show came to Berman and Shill's attention upon the death of the author, Vaclav Havel, an influential dissident during the Soviet regime. After the fall of communism, Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia, a satellite country to the USSR. In addition to his political power and activism, Havel was also a playwright, and when he died in 2011, his plays gained a surge of acclaim.

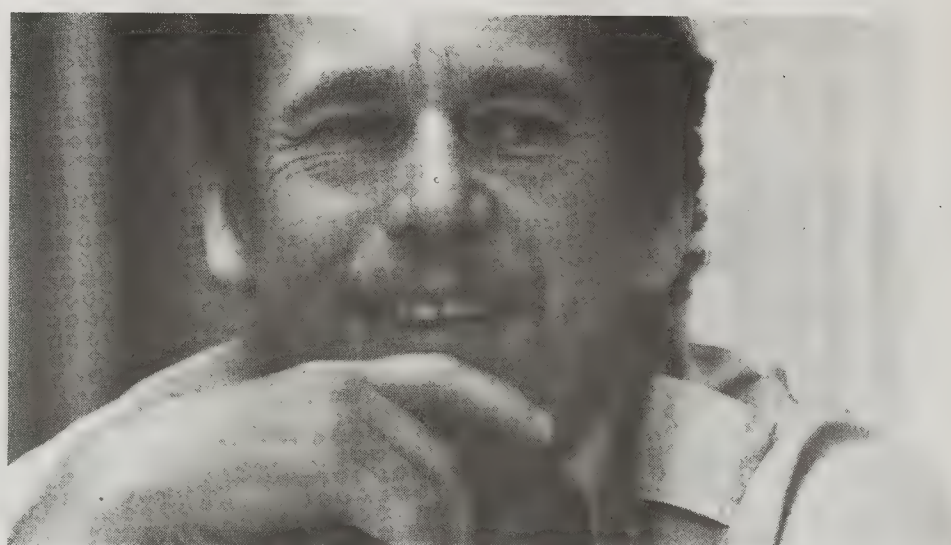
As its name suggests, *The Vanek Trilogy* is a trilogy of one-acts. The acts are not part of one singular play — rather, they are unique works unto themselves. However, the three acts are connected by the character Vanek, a semi-autobiographical personification of Havel who explores life under a communist regime in Eastern Europe. The *Trilogy* allows both the characters and the audience to experience constant surveillance and a tyrannical government, and documents the dehumanization that happens under an oppressive regime. Ac-

cording to Shill and Berman, "each scene is a conversation that [Havel/Vanek] finds himself either with his boss, friends or an old mentor that straddles the line between camaraderie and manipulation. The idea of the secret police, which were characteristic of the Communist totalitarian regime, is abstractly present in all acts, as is the thought of collaboration."

Shill and Berman both "hope that this performance ... will bring you closer to the experience of living under communism, and will make you think about those of us less fortunate than we — those who are living still in constant fear under various authoritarian regimes around the world." The show is intended to raise questions about the meaning of freedom, as well as life without freedom.

Bogutyn noted that to direct the play, a good understanding of both the context and the region was necessary. Working around Vanek's "moral sterility," she said, "made our process very interesting and rich in exploration."

In her director's note, Bogutyn writes that "it has been very important to me to present the region Eastern Europe in a different light, dig deeper, overcome the stereotypes and often shallow understanding of what it means to be Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, etc. ... From the very beginning of the process I wanted to emphasize how po-



COURTESY

Vaclav Havel was a Czech playwright and dissident who penned *The Vanek Trilogy*.

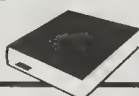
litical these three plays are, alongside their artistic value, reach below the accentuated, often comic absurdities of living under a socialist regime and show the different reality.

However, Bogutyn said that the strength of *The Vanek Trilogy* lies in the fact that it is not a morality play. Many of the other characters in the play are not activists or strong of mind. Rather, Vanek is the only one portrayed as a moral hero. Au-

dience members are not expected to associate easily with Vanek, but rather with the supporting characters who do not question the government so ferociously.

Shill hopes that the show will "illuminate some issues that the West hasn't really been exposed to very much." Similarly, Bogutyn wishes for the show to reflect on our modern lives in a democracy, as well as on the efforts of the human rights activists of our time.

BOOKING IT



BY MICHAEL GAFFNEY

Both *Flesh and Not* collects 15 of David Foster Wallace's multiform nonfiction pieces, including essays and book reviews published between 1988 and 2007. Although most of these essays do not demand to be read in the same way that essays in Wallace's earlier collections do — this reader recalls fervently reading "Getting Away....," "A Supposedly Fun Thing..." and "This Is Water" — there are a number of gems in this collection that are thought-provoking and great reads.

Many of Wallace's best essays, like the examples above, fall into two separate but never totally distinct categories. There are Wallace's overflowing, catalogue essays that more or less feature a giant eyeball, as Wallace described it, floating around a scene and describing everything possible. In this collection, one truly finds only one such essay: "Democracy and Commerce at the U.S. Open."

BOTH FLESH AND NOT

David Foster Wallace

Here, Wallace explores the 1995 U.S. Open, and he frequently deploys his characteristic descriptive tactics to enliven the event. One finds poetic exaggerations like "air so clear you can almost hear the sun combusting," and the typically dark humor: Wallace, looking up from the bottom of a stadium, sees stands "so vertiginously steep that a misstep on any of the upper stairs looks like. It would be certain and hideous death." He writes in this essay with frequent contractions, sprawling footnotes, and an absence of a single guiding thesis. This style amazes the reader because it displays

the structure not only of Wallace's mind but also the way the world sometimes feels overwhelming and abundant.

Wallace describes this feeling as "Total Noise" in "Deciderization 2007 — A Special Report," which falls into the second category of essays, which like "This Is Water" are generally serious and overtly philosophical. Beginning as an introduction to Best American Essays 2007, "Deciderization," in meditating on nonfiction's job to decide what to represent, veers into a discussion of practical philosophy about what it means to have freedom and be an adult in the contemporary U.S.A., where other "Deciders" are constantly choosing what ideas we should be exposed to. "The real measure of informed adulthood," Wallace writes, consists of "acuity and taste in choosing which Deciders one submits to." He finds a ray of hope in the postmodern condition's pre-chosen reality because one can still learn to winnow and triage, to have the freedom of choice.

One of Wallace's last nonfiction pieces, "Federer Both Flesh and Not" represents a marriage and perfection of these two kinds of essays; although still a catalogue, this essay eschews the humor Wallace relies on in his other essays in favor of a more serious and reverent tone. At certain times the essay reports on the final 2005 Wimbledon match between Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, and at other times attempts to explain just what is so incredible about Federer.

For Wallace, Federer interrupts the "dogma" of power baseline tennis, playing with "consummate finesse" and beauty that he finds not only uncommon but genius and "ineffable." The essay concentrates on the extreme

minutia of tennis and Federer's game, and although this might be less interesting for a non-tennis-loving reader, his descriptions are precise, and they expand out toward a more general sense of aesthetic awe.

As for the other essays in this collection, many will only interest those particularly captivated by Wallace's writing. Of the five book reviews, Wallace's review of David Markson's *Wittgenstein's Mistress* illuminates the novel in the most interesting and intricate way. This review in particular shines a great deal of light on Wallace's hope for his own fiction. "The (As It Were) Seminal Importance of *Terminator 2*," though somewhat dated, observes the trend, only now fully realized with Michael Bay, for post T2 films to entirely focus on F/X while ignoring plot.

The too-short and highly-relevant final essay of the collection, "Just Asking," considers a post 9/11 problem of freedom, and is an elegant final conclusion to this collection, which is full of essays that ask readers to think so deeply and profoundly. Although this collection rarely hits the emotional pitch that some of Wallace's fiction does, fiction that makes "heads throb heartlike," it does excogitate with both lucidity and profound belief. Each essay is, in Wallace's words, a "quantum of information and a vector of meaning."

Recommendation: For Wallace fans, this is a great read and a neat and clean way to carry around essays that most have already read. If you've never read Wallace before, though, I recommend reading *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again* instead. I can almost guarantee it will make you want more.

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THE REEL CRITIC

BY DEIRDRE SACKETT

After 50 years, he's still got it. *Skyfall* is the latest in the James Bond series, and it does not disappoint. Released on the series' 50th anniversary, the movie follows a rather dramatic premise: after an operation involving Bond and sidekick Eve goes south, M finds herself fending off a forced retirement, and aspects of her past come back to haunt her — with big consequences.

I'll go ahead and say it right off the bat: there is no true "Bond girl" in this movie. Yes, there is a sexy woman whose

SKYFALL

first encounter with Bond is at a casino bar, but she is by no means a traditional femme fatale. Rather than tantalizing the audience with seductive women or cool gadgets, it is Bond's loyalty to his employer, M, that is the driving force behind the movie.

Daniel Craig returns for a third round — this time, he plays an aging Bond. After being injured in the beginning of the movie, Bond's recovery and return to service becomes a major plot point. It is obvious that the physical demands of the job are becoming increasingly difficult for him to undertake — the combination of injury and age do not a fit agent make. Meanwhile, Judi Dench's M is again the sharp and sassy leader of the secret intelligence service M16, but she too faces aging issues alongside Bond. Rather than focusing on beautiful, young espionage, the movie explores how these two staples of the series deal with their respective aging woes and their loyalty to England. This is seemingly made worse by the arrival of M's new bureaucratic boss, Mallory (played by Ralph Fiennes).

The movie was also unique for a Bond film in that it finally explored the attitudes of M16, particularly in how it deals with its employees. This glimpse within the secret service revealed a disturbing truth. Essentially, M16 treats its agents as disposable

tools rather than human beings — they are mere playthings to be used to form agreements and settle deals. We finally learn that being a glamorous agent has its price.

The true highlight of *Skyfall* was its villain, Raoul Silva, played by Javier Bardem who was a living example of this terrible reality. A former lackey of M16, Silva fell victim to the service's dispassionate view of its agents. When he fails to take his own life after being betrayed by the service, he swears revenge against M instead, creating one of the most memorable and chilling Bond villains in the series' history. For instance, Silva's introductory scene contains an eerie monologue, with the tone of voice and subtle mannerisms that immediately recall Heath Ledger's "Joker" in *The Dark Knight*.

Despite the more serious plot, the movie still delivers its trademark thrills. The film opens with a triple-whammy of a car chase, a train battle and a rooftop motorcycle chase — you read that right. Explosions and gunfights abound. There's even a fight scene involving komodo dragons.

The visuals in the movie truly paint *Skyfall* as a beautiful piece of art, complementing the content of the film with strong imagery. The introductory sequence, with its kaleidoscopic, bloody imagery, was complemented by Adele's haunting vocals. One of the best fight scenes in the movie took place in a glass room, with reflections of city lights causing confusion as to who is fighting whom. Another particularly beautiful sequence involved glimmering, colorful Chinese dragons on a river.

One unsuspecting highlight came near the end of the movie. Without giving too much away, the ending of *Skyfall* more resembled *Home Alone* than a Bond movie. I'll just leave that to the imagination for those who haven't seen it just yet. Combine that with a memorable last-minute character appearance and big explosions, and you've got one of the most entertaining movies of the year.



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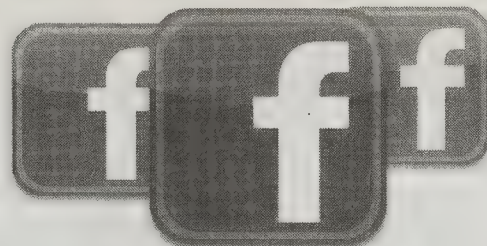
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Thompson named MVP of tip-off tournament

CONTINUED FROM 24

dominated the second half, scoring 69 points after the intermission as Lynch had 13 of his game-high 27 points on six of six shooting in the second half. Albert Nascimento '14 had 14 points, all of which came in the final 20 minutes, as the junior from Governador Valadares, Brazil finished with four field goals on six attempts and sunk five of six free throws. Wolfen and Merryman each added 14 points as well while Thompson, who has scored in double digits in every game so far this season, had 10. The Panthers shot a scorching 76 percent from the floor in the second half and 65 percent for the game, while out-rebounding Green Mountain 50-27.

Middlebury then traveled to Plattsburgh State in a meeting of unbeaten teams. The visiting Panthers got off to a slow start, scoring just 24 points in the first half and went into the locker room trailing by five — their first half-time deficit of the season. The Cardinals extended their lead to nine early in the second half, dominating the offensive and defensive glass while disrupting the Panthers' offensive sets with heavy pressure on the perimeter. The visitors whittled their way back, taking a 39-38 lead on a Merryman three-pointer with 13:43 remaining, the team's first lead since the 12:34 mark in the first half. Following back-and-forth play that saw eight lead changes in just over

six minutes, the Panthers took the lead for good on a jumper from Jensen with 6:08 remaining. Lynch and Thompson then combined to score 20 of the team's next 22 points as Middlebury clung to a tenuous lead that oscillated between two and seven points. The Cardinals went to a full-court press down the stretch defensively while catching fire from beyond the arc, offensively, at one point scoring 12 consecutive points courtesy of the long ball. Thompson iced the game late, however, extending the lead to seven with two free throws with 59 seconds to play, which he followed with a jumper at the 34 second mark to send the lead back to five with 34 seconds remaining. He finished the contest with 23 points and seven rebounds — both game highs — while Lynch added 19 points on six of eight shooting from the floor and seven for eight from the line. Kizel was the only other Panther to register double-digit points with 13, nine of which came in the second half. Wolfen, meanwhile, added seven assists though somewhat offset by his six turnovers. Middlebury once again struggled on the glass — a concerning sign without Ryan Sharry '12 anchoring the middle of their defense — allowing 11 offensive rebounds to the Cardinals while being outrebounded 28-21 overall.

The Panthers returned to Pepin Gymnasium for their home opener against Southern Vermont (0-4). Middlebury opened the game on a 33-11 run en route to a 54-27 halftime lead.

Lynch was nearly unstoppable in the low post once again, converting seven of nine attempts from the floor for 17 first-half points.

"Offensively I'm just trying to find the best shot possible," Lynch said. "Not necessarily settling for [a shot] when there's a defender on me, kicking [the ball] out and reposting and trying to get that single coverage when sometimes there's a shorter guy guarding me."

Kizel and Merryman each added eight points of their own, as each went two-for-two from beyond the arc. The story of the game, however, was Middlebury center Jack Roberts '14 who scored a career-high 18 points on sinking nine of 10 shots. Roberts was equally dominant on the defensive end, swatting a game-high four shots.

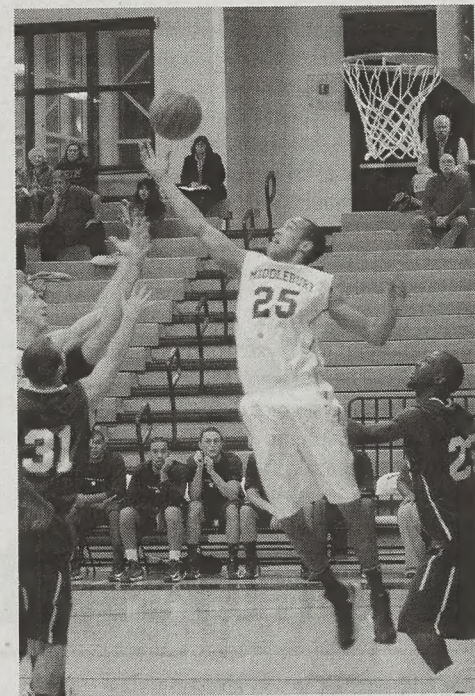
"His aggressiveness and his ability to catch some of the passes that the guys laid up for him were the key," Brown said. "Jack missed a portion of last year that interrupted [his] progress, but I see him growing and growing each week in practice and in our games."

"Jack played great," Lynch said. "I think the most improved thing with him since last year is that he's keeping the ball up high instead of bringing it down. He's 6'9" and no one is touching that ball and he just puts it right on the rim."

Merryman joined Lynch and Roberts as the only other Middlebury player to reach double digit points as the California native buried a third three pointer in the

second half from well behind the arc, demonstrating the extent of his range. Merryman's ability to stretch the floor will be a key to the team's success in conference play when points inside the paint are harder to come by.

The Panthers return to action Sunday, Dec. 2, when they travel to Providence, R.I. where they will square off with Johnson and Wales.



Captain Nolan Thompson '13 stretches for one of his two offensive rebounds in the Panthers win over Southern Vermont.

Squash teams start season with trio of victories

By Gabe Weissmann

Looking to build on a 16-9 finish from a year ago, the 14th-ranked Middlebury men's squash team opened up its season at the M.I.T. Round Robin Tournament in Boston on Saturday, Nov. 17. The Panthers dismantled a trio of opponents, sweeping M.I.T. and Northeastern 9-0 while only dropping one match to NESCAC foe Wesleyan, the 23rd-ranked team in the country in an 8-1 win.

"It felt really good to get our first matches under our belt this season," said Spencer Hurst '13. "I think everyone was happy with how we played and now it's time to keep the good performances rolling."

Jay Dolan '13 played in the top spot on the men's team for the first time in his Middlebury career, defeating all of his opponents in straight sets. Dolan had no trouble in his match against M.I.T., taking down his Engineer opponent in straight sets: 11-7, 11-2 and 11-2. Against Wesleyan, Dolan won 11-7, 11-6 and 11-9. He followed that with another sweep against Northeastern winning the sets 11-5, 11-2 and 11-3. In fact, the Panther men won all but four of 27 matches in straight sets marking a dominant opening showing for the team.

In the women's bracket at the M.I.T. tournament, meanwhile, the 11th-ranked women's team managed a clean sweep with three 9-0 victories. Middlebury defeated

Wellesley, Wesleyan and Northeastern. Sophomore Charlotte Dewey '15 anchored the lineup for the women's team, competing as the top seed for the first time in her Middlebury career. Dewey dropped just one set in her three matches — the only set lost by any member of the team. After convincing performances last week, both teams now sit at 3-0 in the early going with NESCAC play around the corner.

The men's team hosts Navy and Drexel this Friday and Sunday while traveling to Dartmouth to play Bowdoin Saturday. The women, meanwhile, play just one match this weekend when they host Drexel on Sunday, Dec. 2.

While both squads have dominated their opposition, they will face tougher

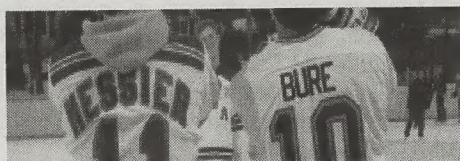
competition in the week ahead.

"Everyone played pretty well for our first matches," said Parker Hurst '14. "It was a solid way to start of the season but we are going to have a tough weekend with Navy, Bowdoin and Drexel."

The match with Navy will mark the third time in two years the teams have met. The Panthers and the Midshipmen split the series last year as the Panthers won the regular season meeting 5-4 before Navy exacted its revenge, knocking Middlebury out of team nationals by the same score.

NESCAC play begins in earnest for both the men's and women's teams in the new year when both teams travel to Williamstown, Mass. for the Williams Round Robin Tournament on Jan. 5.

EDITORS' PICKS



TOM CLAYTON (26-19, .577)

Who will win Middlebury men's basketball -20 @ Johnson and Wales?

MIDDLEBURY -20
The Wildcats will be tough on their home court, but the Panther offense shows no sign of slowing down.

Who will lead the men's hockey team in points this weekend?

THOMAS FREYRE '14
The sentimental favorite. He's due for a big weekend.

How many goals will the women's hockey team allow in two games against Trinity?

THREE
One goal each for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

How many sets will the men's and women's squash teams combine to lose in four matches this weekend?

FIVE
Just a few here and there.

Who will play Notre Dame in the National Championship game?

ALABAMA
And then Alabama will graduate to the NFL.



DAMON HATHEWAY (81-67, .547)

MIDDLEBURY -20
Without an elite scoring threat like Lamonte Thomas, Johnson and Wales won't be around long in this one.

GEORGE ORDWAY '15
The super sophomore is going to have a breakout season.

TWO
Annabelle Jones '15 will record her first clean sheet of the season.

FOUR
Sweeps across the board and a tight 5-4 victory over a tough Navy team.

ALABAMA
Nick Saban's teams play at a different level in the postseason.



OWEN TEACH (43-50, .462)

MIDDLEBURY -20
The Wildcats are a weak team in a weak conference. Pretty weak.

MATT SILCOFF '16
One of a slew of first-years leading the Panthers in scoring this year.

FIVE
Number of wins = 2.

TEN
Pure conjecture. No wonder I'm so far below .500 with questions like these.

GEORGIA
The 'daws will upset #3 Alabama this weekend in the SEC title game. Or so I've been told by ESPN ...

Women's hockey opens season 3-1

By Mary Claire Ecclesine

Coming off a 21-4-3 record, a NESCAC championship and a trip to the NCAA quarterfinals, the Middlebury women's ice hockey team opened the season with a pair of games against Colby Nov. 16 and 17, and the Panther/Cardinal Classic tournament this past weekend, Nov. 24 and 25. After its first four games, the squad currently stands with a record of 3-1; converting with two wins against Colby, one against Elmira and a loss in the Panther/Cardinal Classic final against Plattsburgh.

Against Elmira this past Saturday, the Panthers brought home an overtime victory after a tough battle. The game was a constant back and forth effort by both teams.

Middlebury took the lead in the first four minutes of the game after a steal and goal from Lauren Greer '13. But, the Soaring Eagles came back strong and had a goal at the end of the first period to carry a tie going into the second period.

After multiple power plays and penalties from both teams, regulation time finished in a 3-3 tie, sending the two teams into

overtime. To Middlebury's advantage, they entered overtime with a 53-second power play, in which Hannah Bielawski '15 fought in the crease and tapped in a goal to clinch it at 4-3. Not only did Middlebury win on the scoreboard, but outmatched their opponents on the stat sheet. Middlebury had 32 shots on goal, overshooting Elmira by 11 shots, and only four penalties compared to Elmira's nine. Tri-captain Heather Morrison '13 also tallied for the Panthers against Elmira.

The following morning, Nov. 25, the squad took on Plattsburgh State at Kenyon Arena in the tournament final. Plattsburgh played consistently throughout the whole game, scoring one goal in each period. Middlebury, on the other hand, had trouble converting their chances, especially considering the fact that they held a 31-18-shot advantage over the Cardinals. Plattsburgh took a 2-0 lead in the second period, which was quickly neutralized by Middlebury who scored two goals in the period to tie the game 2-2.

In the third period, the Panthers took ample shots, but couldn't connect on a goal.



FILE PHOTO

Junior forward Sarah Ugalde '14 takes a face-off for the 3-1 Panthers who fell to 3-1 Sunday.

Middlebury also slipped on defense with just enough time for Plattsburgh to score one last goal to win the game at the 11:50 mark. Bielawski and Emily Fluke '15 helped to keep their team in the game by tallying one goal each.

Fresh off the field hockey turf, Greer commented on her team's performance.

"Having the Panther Cardinal Classic this early in the season was also a good chance to play some of the best teams in the country and see how we compete with them," said Greer. "And this weekend we did."

Following the tournament, Most Valuable Player honors were awarded to Middlebury's sophomore forwards Fluke and Katie Sullivan '15.

The previous weekend, Nov. 16 and 17, Middlebury handled Colby College in both games to start the NESCAC campaign 2-0.

The first game, on Saturday, saw Colby rack up six penalties in an aggressive contest. A combined total of 12 minutes throughout the game gave Middlebury multiple opportunities to score on the

power play. After converting many of those chances, Middlebury came out on top with a 3-2 win.

Saturday morning was a far different game. The Panthers handled the Mules, making their fans proud for the second day in a row, by beating Colby 5-1.

Throughout the weekend Panther goals were scored by Bielawski, Fluke, Madeline Joyce '14, Sara Ugalde '14, Greer, Sullivan and Carly Schaefer '16.

Next weekend the women's ice hockey team will travel to Trinity College to play back-to-back games on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2.

Greer is looking forward to this weekend's match ups.

"This weekend against Trinity will be a major opportunity for our team to respond, and regain a rhythm against another good NESCAC team," says Greer. "We always have a rivalry with Amherst, but I also consider Trinity as a major factor in our competitive schedule. Every NESCAC game is important, especially now that we play them back to back."

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S HOCKEY @ Colby	5-2 ^w	<i>First-years come up big in the team's season opening win at Colby.</i>
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Bates	59-48 ^w	<i>Women win consolation game of UMASS-Boston Tip-Off Classic.</i>
MEN'S SQUASH vs. Wesleyan	8-1 ^w	<i>The squash team downed its first NECAC foe in style.</i>
MEN'S BASKETBALL @ Green Mountain	117-81 ^w	<i>The men put up "video game numbers" in an offensive-minded encounter.</i>
WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. Colby	5-1 ^w	<i>Women's hockey outscores Colby 8-3 in homestand.</i>

Women's basketball splits first four games of the season

By Alex Morris

The Middlebury women's basketball team started off the season with disappointment after a 66-61 overtime loss in the Tip-Off Classic against the University of Massachusetts- Boston on Saturday, Nov. 17. The Panthers, however, rebounded to win the consolation game against Colby-Sawyer 59-48. The team continued the season with a 80-47 loss against Smith on Tuesday, Nov. 20 and a 81-73 win against Plattsburgh on Sunday, Nov. 25.

"We are happy but not satisfied by our performances so far this season," said co-captain Jesse Miller '13. "We have faced some very good competition so far this season, which has been great to play against no matter the outcome. Every situation is a chance to improve and get one step closer to being the team that we aspire to be this season."

In their first game of the season against UMass-Boston, the Panthers trailed at the beginning 16-9 before going on a 7-0 run to tie the game at 16-16. They extended the run to 12-1 after a basket from Katie Ritter '15 gave the Panthers a 21-17 lead at 7:17. Unfortunately, Middlebury was unable to hold the lead after UMass-Boston finished the first half with a 30-25 lead.

After falling behind in the second half, Laura Lowry '15 hit a three pointer to tie the game at 36-36 at the 14:16 mark. The score continued to yo-yo after Middlebury was able to erase the Beacons' 10 point lead, when a jump-shot from Ritter tied the game at 52-52 with only 1:35 left to play. UMass-Boston managed to regain the lead with 45 seconds on the clock before a basket from Rachel Crews '15 sent the game into overtime.

The Beacons went on an 8-0 run in the overtime period after Middlebury was unable to convert their shots and turned over the ball twice.

Three Middlebury players ended the game with double figures, led by Sarah Marcus '14 who scored a game-high of 17 points. Ritter led the team with seven rebounds while Lowry had four assists.

After the disappointment of Saturday's game, Middlebury came out strong against Colby-Sawyer. They took a 19-5 lead in the first 9:46 before the Chargers cut the lead to nine. However, Middlebury continued to push and went into the break with a 31-12 lead.

Colby-Sawyer was the more alert of the two teams at the beginning of the second half scoring 14 out of 19 points to cut the advantage to six at 34-28. While the Chargers came within three points on two occasions, Middlebury was able to hang on for its first win of the season.

Tracy Borsinger '13 was the high scorer for the Panthers with 18 points and also claimed eight boards, while all-tournament team member Marcus was second with 14 points.

The Panthers went into their game against Smith looking to build on the momentum of the win against Colby-Sawyer. However, Middlebury was never really able to challenge the Pioneers.

Middlebury started off the game with a 4-0 lead, but the lead was their last of the game. The Pioneers responded with a 9-0 run after baskets from Rosa Drummond and Paulina Solis. Smith continued to increase their advantage and built their biggest lead of 41-17 after a layup from Bethany Clap, and went into the break with a 43-20 advantage.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first after Smith opened the period with a 10-2 run. The Pioneers led by as much as 37 after another Solis layup went down.

The Panthers struggled on offense, sinking only two out of 11 long-range attempts. Ritter led the attack with nine points, while Borsinger finished with eight rebounds.

Middlebury was able to pick itself up after its loss at Smith, bouncing back with a comfortable win against Plattsburgh.

The Cardinals started off the stronger of teams, opening up the game with an 8-0 run, eventually extending their largest lead to 11-2 after a three-pointer by Brittany Marshall at 15:11.

Plattsburgh continued to dominate the rest of the half holding a 30-22 advantage

with 1:07 remaining on the clock, before Marcus hit a pair of triples. Then Nora Kelly '15 pounded through the Cardinal's defence, downed a layup, and closed the gap to 32-30.

The Panthers continued to build on this momentum at the onset of the second half, beginning with an 8-0 run on a pair of triples from Lowry and a jumper from Borsinger. Middlebury increased the lead to as much as 10 points just five minutes into the half.

However, on the strength of an offensive surge from Marshall, who went on a 7-0 run at the 8:54 mark, the Cardinals found themselves in the lead for the first time since the halftime break. Their advantaged grew to 66-63 with 4:31 remaining.

But after the Panthers emerged from a key back-and-forth sequence with possession, Middlebury went on a 10-0 run to complete their comeback victory.

Marcus finished with 21 points while Borsinger had 20 points and seven assists.

The Panthers fell victim to a slow start against Castleton State, however, as Middlebury's resurgence at the end of the game fell just short, as the Panthers fell 62-60 to the Spartans.

While Castleton built an early lead, the game yo-yoed back and forth as the Spartans built a seven-point lead before the Panthers cut it to two, 27-25, with 6:24 left. Castleton went into the break only a basket better than Middlebury, leading 32-30.

Castleton rallied at the start of the second half, however, extending their lead to 10 with a jumper by Alyssa Leonard. Their lead continued to fluctuate as a 4-0 Panther run brought the visitors within a basket at 57-55 with 3:35 remaining in the game. After the teams traded baskets, Scarlett Kirk '14 again brought the Panthers within one point with just 41 seconds left. After a jumper from Castleton guard Kelly Conway, Katie Ritter '15 attempted a game-tying three with 12 seconds left, but the ball rimmed out.

Borsinger led the team with a game high of 25 points, while Katie Pett '14 finished with eight rebounds, four assists and four steals.

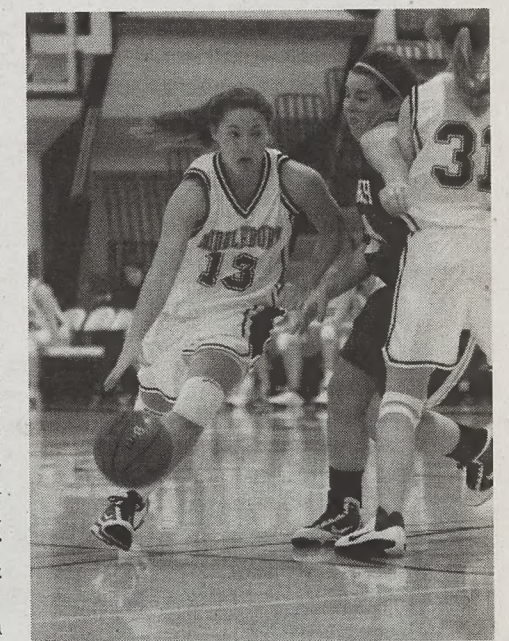
While the Panthers have had an up-and-

down start to the season, head coach Noreen Pecsok sees the opening games as a way to gauge her team's strengths and set season-long goals.

"We have a lot of people who haven't played a lot of minutes due to injury in the past, so right now we are figuring out who plays well together," said Pecsok. "We believe all the things we need to get better at are within our grasp, so everyone is very positive."

Marcus, echoing her coach's sentiments stressed the importance of the team maintaining its defensive intensity.

"This season, we want to be a disruptive, defensive team," she said. "We want to make it as hard as possible for the other team to score, and if we play tough defense, it will give us energy to push the ball and get easy baskets in transition. I am extremely excited for the rest of the season, and if we continue to stay focused and play hard, good things will come."



FILE PHOTO

Scarlett Kirk '14 drives the lane while Jesse Miller '13 sets a screen on her defender.

PANTHER PROFILE

Interviews with Middlebury's Student Athletes

By Christine Schozer

1

What are your goals for this season?

My goal this season is to make NCAA's at Middlebury, which means achieving multiple top-10s and improving my consistency.

2

What was your first memory of the sport?

When I was six, I raced in my first race called the Love Joy race at Hunt Hollow in New York. The race was every Sunday and included all age brackets from six years old to adults like my dad. The youngest would race first and [older skiers follow sequentially thereafter]. The youngest racers would follow behind their mother or father starting half way down the course. I followed behind my dad because I had never trained before. [Within seconds,] I straight-lined past my dad. My dad was trying to catch up to me, but I kept going around the gates and even a couple of times I skied between the panels because I thought that was another way to go. That was my first ski race.

3

What is your most recent stand out memory?

Last season when we were at Sunday River for the Bates Carnival, nobody knew when the second run start was. I showed up really late for my start. Apparently, I was supposed to be in the gate and Stever, my coach, looked so angry. He stomped on my skis and bindings before I reached him in the start. He threw my [training] skis over the fence, snapped my boots into my bindings [on my race skis], buckled my boots and [pushed me into the start gate.] I had to ski right away [without any preparation or course report] and it was my best run of slalom all year. It was a really big rush of adrenaline.

Katelyn Barclay '15 (Pittsford, NY), a member of the women's alpine ski team and economics major, previously attended Burke Mountain Academy. She has traveled through Europe, New Zealand and South America seeking snow and learning about different cultures. Barclay mostly focused on speed events during high school, including the Downhill and Super-G races. She was number one in the country in both speed events for 15-17 year olds and attended US Nationals. She also dominated the eastern speed circuit, placing first in multiple eastern race series. At Middlebury, Barclay transferred her speed talent into the more technical events and raced in the Giant Slalom and Slalom in NCAA competition. Last season, Barclay broke into the top ten in a few runs, placed 10th at the Middlebury Carnival Giant Slalom, and also had few top 15s.



4

What has been a pivotal moment in your career so far?

When I was in eighth grade, I had to write essays to my parents to convince them to let me to go to Burke Mountain Academy. I wrote essays to my teachers so they would let me go. I had to convince everybody that I really wanted to ski and that I could still succeed if I went to a ski academy by making it work with my academics.

5

How has life as an athlete helped you as a student?

Skiing has taught me the meaning of hard work and time management because ski racing is a really mental sport that takes a lot more focus than most sports. You only have two one-minute runs to do everything you need to do. You have trained for hours, days and years for these two minutes; there was a lot of work that led up to this race. In school, it's similar; it's all about how much time you put into it. I can always succeed if I put the work in and I want to do well.

6

Why do you love the sport?

I love how fast you can go. I love the adrenaline you get when you are racing down the hill. It's the most frustrating sport in the entire world [due to] all the variables like the weather, the course, the hill, the snow conditions and the racers. Every run is different. Every time it can be an amazing run or a terrible run, but when it's an amazing run it's the best feeling ever.

Swimming and diving teams split with Jumbos, drowned by Camels

By Fritz Parker

The Middlebury swimming & diving team opened its season on the road at Connecticut College on Saturday, Nov. 17, taking on both the host school and Tufts. While the men fell to both opponents, the women defeated the Jumbos but fell just short of the host Camels.

Both teams had been training hard leading up to opening weekend, fitting in nine practices each week in addition to weight training.

"I think the weight room, dry-land [and] CrossFit element has made some people sore," said head coach Bob Rueppel. "We had a really great practice on Thursday and then Friday they were hurting a little bit, but they have to deal with that mentally."

Given the rigorous early-season schedule, Rueppel had modest expectations for his athletes' times in the season's first competition.

"We don't expect to swim super-fast right now," he said. "We're tired. We've been doing a lot of work. It was really neat to see everyone race. College swimming dual meets are really about racing."

Nevertheless, Middlebury athletes on both sides managed top performances.

For the women, Jamie Hillas '15 (100 breaststroke and 200 IM), Maddy Berkman '15 (100 and 200 butterfly), Hannah King

'13 (one and three-meter diving) and Maddie Pierce '16 (200 backstroke) each won individual events, while both the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay finishing second. These finishes propelled Middlebury past Tufts — who finished third in the NESCAC a year ago — by a score of 159-134. The women fell to Conn. College 149-138.

"On the ladies side, we had some nice surprises," said Rueppel. "Some people just needed to get their first meet out of the way, get the jitters out. We look at the big picture. I was more concerned with performance."

For the men, the points were a bit more difficult to come by. Ian McKay '14 impressed in his first meet back from injury, winning the 100 butterfly and finishing second in the 50 freestyle. Stephan Koenisberger '16 was runner-up in the 100 breaststroke. The 200 free relay of Bryan Cheuk '16, Ethan Litman '13, Mike Oster '14 and McKay also finished second. Overall, the men were defeated by both Tufts and Conn. College, falling 183-104 and 179-99 respectively.

"On the guys' side, we knew it was going to be difficult to beat those two teams at this juncture of our training, and the guys were much more competitive than last year," said Rueppel. "It was really a lot of fun. I was pleased overall."

Rueppel was optimistic about the return of McKay and the effect it will have on the men's team this season.

"Ian was a beast this weekend," he said. "He's been incredible with his rehab, getting back into it this year, buying into the new system. Having a guy like that, which we didn't have last year, you have a guy that sets the tone on a relay."

After a weekend without competition over Thanksgiving break, the team returns to the pool with a new perspective on how they will need to improve.

"We're looking at two more solid weeks of training before finals," said Rueppel. "We want to build on what we've done in the first compartment of the season. They know we've been training on a really high level, but we've got to keep wanting more. What really matters is what you do in February."

Both the men and the women return to competition on Saturday, Dec. 1, when they host Amherst. The Lord Jeffs were runners-up on both sides at NESCAC's a year ago, and will provide tough early-season competition for the Panthers.

"For the girls, I think we can compete with [Amherst] for the first time, and I think they know it," said Rueppel. "They've already been talking about it. Having the comfort of home, I think our men can get out and really race."

First-years lead men's hockey team

CONTINUED FROM 24

four games has shown that."

Beaney echoed his player's remarks.

"Playing back-to-back nationally ranked teams was a huge challenge," said Beaney. "The only way I could be happier is if we had won the game versus Norwich. Even after the game was tied at four, we had three good chances to score. One bounce of the puck and we could have won it. We will come out of this with a much better understanding of what to do to close games out like that."

The previous weekend against Colby and Bowdoin, one of the biggest stories in

the successful NESCAC contests was the emergence of a crop of first-year talent. Silcoff, Neugold and Riley Dickie '16 all have three points or more after four games.

The form of the team's younger players encourages both Beaney and Brown.

"I think that we all knew a huge part of our success this year would be dependent on how quickly the younger guys were able to step in and play a role, and the first two weekends have shown that they had no problem doing so," said Brown. "They've been putting pucks in the net up front, and logging some heavy minutes in the back as well. Having four lines that the whole team really trusts out there in any situation is a huge advantage for us."

"We generally don't want first-years playing pivotal roles," added Beaney. "However, these guys have stepped up in even strength, penalty-kill and power play, and when you can get point production it's a bonus. The first-years have a lot to do with creating the competitive attitude that permeates the team right now."

Middlebury opens its home schedule against Connecticut College and Tufts this weekend, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and 4 p.m., respectively, in front of what will be a raucous Kenyon Arena.

"I think this week will be interesting, how we practice and how we prepare," said Beaney. "We need to be excited to play at home in the NESCAC."

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM
	Owen's Outlook
1	MEN'S BASKETBALL <i>Picking up right where they left off. 4-0 and rolling.</i>
2	CROSS COUNTRY <i>Strong showing at NCAA's is a great finish to the year.</i>
3	WOMEN'S HOCKEY <i>The reigning NESCAC champs handled Colby twice at home.</i>
4	MEN'S HOCKEY <i>A pair of one-goal games vs. top-five teams is strong work.</i>
5	MEN'S RUGBY SEVENS <i>Headed to Texas A&M for a shot at a first National 7s title.</i>
6	SQUASH <i>Both teams sit at 3-0 after dismantling the MIT tourney.</i>
7	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL <i>A 2-2 start for a team looking to build on a 7-17 record.</i>
8	SWIMMING AND DIVING <i>The women fared decently. The men ... well, it's early.</i>

BY THE NUMB3RS

1	The number of combined games lost by both the men's and women's squash teams after six matches between the two.	
7	The number of shots on goal for the women's hockey team in a 3-2 loss to Plattsburgh. The Cardinals attempted just 18 shots on goal.	31
7	The number of seconds remaining in the game when Norwich scored the game-winning goal to beat the men's hockey team.	
	The number of points the men's basketball team has scored in the second half of its last two games.	125
177	The number of career points scored by National Field Hockey Player of the Year Lauren Greer '13 — an all-time school record.	
	The lead for the Thunder at halftime of their game against the Bobcats, Monday night. At one point the Thunder led 79-25.	40

Fourth-ranked Panthers tip-off season undefeated

By Damon Hatheway

The fourth-ranked men's basketball team has opened the season with five wins, including a strong performance in the Rinso Marquette Tournament at Lebanon Valley College. Senior captains Nolan Thompson '13 and Peter Lynch '13, who was named NESCAC Player of the Week, lead the team in scoring, averaging 16 and 14.5 points per game, respectively. Thompson, meanwhile, was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tip-off Tournament, while sophomore Hunter Merryman '15 was named to the all-tournament team. Merryman, who hails from San Marino, Calif. is one of the leading candidates for the sixth man role, having shown great scoring touch early in the season, particularly from beyond the arc where he leads the team with eight made threes on just 13 attempts.

"Hunter has had a terrific start to his sophomore season," said head coach Jeff Brown. "His ability to shoot the three ball and [make] plays going to the basket is a great contribution to this team. I expect he'll be one of those sixth-man [guys] where he's going to score a lot of big baskets for us."

The Panthers opened their season in Annville, Penn., edging Ursinus 78-73 in the opening game of the Rinso Marquette Tournament. Five different players recorded double-digit points for Middlebury with Thompson and Merryman leading the way with 13 points apiece. Guards Joey Kizel '14 and Jake Wolfin '13 had 12 and 10 points, respectively and Lynch had 10 of his own.

In the championship game the next day Middlebury pulled away late from hosts Lebanon Valley in a 72-63 win despite

being out-rebounded 42-26. Thompson led the way once again with 18 points en route to being named the tournament's MVP while Wolfin added 17 more, making five of his eight attempts. Merryman stretched the floor for the Panthers, shooting four for six from beyond the three-point arc. Swing-man James Jensen '14, who had four steals in the opening round, recorded 14 points and a team-high five rebounds. While the offense found its rhythm in the second half, defensively the Panthers failed to contain Dutchmen forward Danny Brooks who wreaked havoc in the post, torching the Panthers down low for 30 points and 13 rebounds. Middlebury did just enough to keep Lebanon Valley at arm's length before going on a 24-12 run to seal the victory, and the championship, after the



Peter Lynch '13, left, and Jack Roberts '14, right, combined to score 40 points in Middlebury's 96-60 win over Southern Vermont, Tuesday night. The two forwards made 18 of 21 field goal attempts.

Dutchmen closed within three points midway through the second half.

Tuesday, Nov. 20 the team traveled to Poultney, Vt. in their first regular season game, against Green Mountain College. The Eagles gave the



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Panthers all they could handle in the first half, taking a 33-22 lead late in the half. Middlebury responded, however, going on a 16-8 run to take a 48-41 lead at the break. The Panthers

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Men's hockey falls in PrimeLink final to second-ranked Norwich

By Owen Teach

Just two weeks into regular season action, the 11th-placed Middlebury men's hockey team has already seen its fair share of adversity. The now 2-1-1, 1-0-1 in the NESCAC, Panthers battled back from multiple deficits during their first weekend of play, Nov. 16 and 17, to defeat Colby 5-2 and tie Bowdoin 4-4 before suffering a last-second 5-4 loss at the hands of perennial rival Norwich, currently placed second, in the final of the PrimeLink Great Northern Shootout on Saturday, Nov. 24. Middlebury also defeated seventh-placed Plattsburgh 3-2 in the tournament semifinal last Friday to reach its first PrimeLink final since the 2008-2009 season.

In the PrimeLink tournament, hosted by Norwich, the Panthers' opening-round game against the Cardinals offered some redemption for Middlebury, who was defeated 7-0 by Plattsburgh last January. Despite being down 1-0 at the end of the first period, Derek Pimentel '15 connected in the second period on a rebound chance for his first goal of the year to tie the game at one. First-year Evan Neugold '16 then converted a goal after shaking a Plattsburgh defender to push the score to 2-1. George Ordway '15 sealed the game with a goal in the third period for Middlebury, who held on for a 3-2 win.

Coach Bill Beaney remarked on how his team gained confidence throughout the semifinal.

"We didn't know how we would match up against a top-five team in the country," said Beaney. "The first seven or eight minutes of the game were played at a pace that we were not used to, but fortunately we stayed with it and from the middle of the first period onwards I feel



COURTESY OF ROBERT STEELE

Terrance Goguen '16 hits a Plattsburgh forward in Middlebury's 3-2 PrimeLink semifinal win. Goguen has two points this year.

that we played as well as, if not better, than Plattsburgh. It was a statement and a confidence builder that we could play with one of the best teams in the country."

The next day against Norwich, the Panthers found themselves trailing 2-1 late in the second period before Matthew Silcoff '16, named Outstanding Rookie of the Tournament, scored his third of the season on the power play. Mike Longo '14 then scored 42 seconds later to give the Panthers a 3-2 lead heading into the third.

After a scoreless run of play, Brendan McGovern '16 scored at the 12:22 mark to extend Middlebury's lead to 4-2. Unfortunately for the Panthers, a controversial holding penalty at the 13:51 mark saw the Cadets convert on a chance and subsequently head to the power play, a sequence Beaney described as a "perfect storm" in favor of Norwich.

The Cadets scored again in the dying moments of the power play to knot the contest at 4-4. Then, in the waning moments of the third period, Travis Janke of Norwich intercepted the puck and found Colin Mulvey, who scored his second goal in just under four minutes to clinch the PrimeLink title with 6.7 seconds left on the clock.

Despite the gut wrenching loss, Chris Brown '13 says his team is looking forward.

"I think the PrimeLink Tourney gave us a great snapshot of where we are at this point in the year," said Brown. "The loss was heartbreaking, but we're going to take the positives out of this weekend and use it to get better. We're happy with our effort, and I think we grew as a team big time this weekend. This group can really go somewhere, and our performance in the first

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Cross country teams finish in top 11 spots at NCAA tournament

By Gabe Weissmann

The Middlebury men and women's cross country teams topped off one of their most successful seasons to date in the Nov. 17 NCAA Cross Country Championship.

Racing at the LaVerne Gibson Cross Country Championship Course in Terre Haute, Ind., the Middlebury men finished eighth in a 32-team field, while the women finished 11th in a 32-team field. The Middlebury men finished behind first place team North Central College, as well as NESCAC rivals Bates and Tufts, among other teams. Meanwhile the women finished behind first-placed Johns Hopkins as well as NESCAC rival Williams College who placed fourth in the race. The Middlebury women were just two points away from taking a top-10 finish from Hope College.

"It was very exciting for the men's team to break the top 10 as this is only the third time that the men's team has even made it to NCAAAs," Wilkerson said. "The women as well had a strong day, and missed the top 10 by one point."

Captain Jack Davies '13 led the men's team to its best finish at an NCAA championship in program history.

"I think the coolest part about nationals was for about an hour and a half after the race, there was a timing error, and I wasn't in the results," Davies said. "The team was 12th without me, as the number one runner, and that's better than we did last year. It shows that we're a super-deep team and we've got a great future."

Davies, who was named an All-American, finished 21st of 280 racers with a time of 24:57 in the eight-kilometer race — the best finish for a men's runner in school history. The other top performers for the men included Patrick

Hebble '13 (58th), Nate Sans '14 (81st), Kevin Wood '15 (114th) and Wilder Schaaf '14 (126th).

The Middlebury women were led by Panther standout Addie Tousley '13 who finished fourth overall in the 277-women race. Tousley finished the six-kilometer race with a time of 21:14.70, just 21 seconds behind first place finisher Christy Cazzola of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Her finish was followed by 62nd, 124th, 127th and 162nd place finishes from Lucy Whipps '14, Alison Maxwell '15, Emily Atwood '14 and Kate Rominger '14, respectively. Tousley, like her teammate Davies, received NCAA All-American honors for her performance in the championship race and for her racing throughout the fall season.

Solid finishes from juniors and sophomores on both the men's and women's teams speak to Middlebury's depth this season.

"This past season was totally about the team for both the men and the women," said Wilkerson. "There have been some great individual performances and highlights but it always is about the team's accomplishments. The teams relied on each other, raising the bar in training and practices."

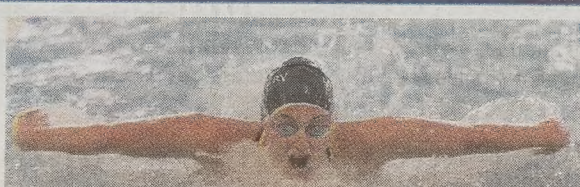
The teams now look to next season, when they will need to fill the void of the graduating All-Americans Tousley and Davies. A talented crop of underclassmen will keep them in contention, speaking to the tremendous strides the program has made. Davies points to the work of Wilkerson.

"If you look at the progression of where this team has come, say over the last ten years since Coach Wilkerson got here ... in Nicole's first year here, we finished 41st of 42 teams at regionals, and in the span of ten years since she's been here she's taken us to regional champions," he said.

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